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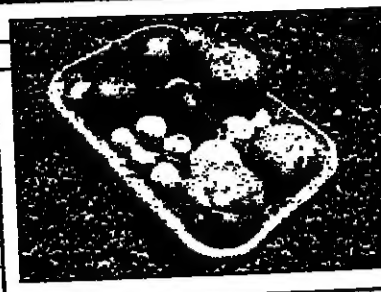
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Paul Auster sets Israel alight

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Knesset to vote on Hebron pact today

Cabinet passes accord; Begin quits

By DAVID MAKOVSKY

The Knesset is expected to pass the long-awaited Hebron accord by a large majority today, due to pledges by the Labor-led opposition to lend its support to the government.

Last night, after close to 12 hours of deliberation, the cabinet approved the agreement by an 11 to 7 vote, followed immediately by the dramatic resignation of diehard opponent Science Minister Ze'ev Begin.

The Palestinian leadership approved the accord in a three-hour session in Gaza last night.

The accord was initiated at 2 a.m. yesterday by senior negotiators Dan Shomron and Saeb Erekat at the end of a meeting at the Erez junction between Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat, who were joined by US special Middle East peace envoy Dennis Ross.

Leading the attack in the cabinet against the agreement were Begin and National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon. Begin charged that Netanyahu was ceding the historic Jewish homeland.

Assuming the Knesset completes its vote by tonight, the IDF plans to complete the pullback before Shabbat begins tomorrow afternoon. If it cannot be completed in time for Shabbat, it will continue after Shabbat is over, and be completed no later than Sunday. According to the accord, Israel is permitted 10 days for a pullback.

The accord includes not just a pullback for a Hebron pullback, but also an accompanying "US Note for the Record," which outlines both sides' future obligations. (See text, Page 4.)

For Israel, this means that it must begin immediate negotiations with the Palestinians on the establishment of the Dahanuq airport and seaport in Gaza, negotiate safe passage between Gaza and the West Bank, apparently discuss further easings of the closure, and agree to a gradual release of prisoners as called for in the Oslo 2 agreement.

Israel also commits to resume final status talks within two months. Those talks are scheduled to conclude in May 1999.

Moreover, Israel is obligated to make the first of three pullbacks beyond Hebron during the first week of March. In an accompanying US letter of assurances to Israel written

Official text of protocol, Christopher's letter, Page 4

by Secretary of State Warren Christopher, the US says that Israel must complete the crucial third pullback from the West Bank within a year from the first pullback but "no later" than "mid-1998." The timetable was broken by Jordan's King Hussein and the US. A second US letter to the Palestinians has yet to be disclosed, but US officials say it is similar.

Officials in the Prime Minister's Office say that, in a letter that Ross sent Cabinet Secretary Danny Naveh this week, the term "mid-1998" refers to the end of August 1998. In the Oslo 2 accord, the pullbacks were to be completed by September 1997, and officials in the Prime Minister's Office voiced great satisfaction not just for obtaining more time but also since the US makes clear in the Christopher letter that the scope of the pullbacks will be implicitly determined by Israel and is not the basis of negotiations. (See analysis.)

Christopher's letter includes the point that he has advised "Arafat of US views on Israel's process of redeploying its forces, designating specific military locations" (See text, Page 4).

In general, Netanyahu insisted the agreement is better than the previous accord for a few reasons. First, in terms of Hebron, it creates an "adjacent area" of a few hundred meters around the Jewish quarter where Palestinians will not be permitted to carry rifles, which Israel fears could be used for sniping against Jews.

The premier insists that the municipal provisions for the Jewish settlers will also allow the community to exist under better conditions.

Secondly, the agreement focuses on "reciprocity," although it is clear that there is no linkage between Palestinian and Israeli obligations.

The Palestinians undertook to "complete the process of revising" their 1964 Charter, which calls for Israel's destruction. Moreover, the PA must cut the size of its police forces in keeping with the Oslo Accords. Otherwise, it reaffirms the Oslo principles, which include fighting terrorism and maintaining secu-



Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu takes the phone from Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat to speak to President Bill Clinton early yesterday morning at Erez Checkpoint. Both spoke to Clinton, Jordan's King Hussein, and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak to thank them for their roles in brokering the Hebron agreement.

city cooperation, as well as confiscating firearms, the last of which Israel contends is not being enforced by the Palestinians.

Labor officials say the agreement may be more detailed, but is not better than the existing framework.

Missing from the Hebron accord is a demand which Israel insisted upon during the first few months of negotiations, but subsequently yielded — an explicit right of the IDF to re-enter the 80% of Hebron controlled by the Palestinians when it deems that there is a threat to Israeli security as well as hot pursuit of terrorists. Instead, Israel settled for reaffirmation of Oslo 2 provision, which apparently enables "engagement" when there is limited hot pursuit.

The initialing at Erez occurred after the Netanyahu-Arafat meeting

was carefully choreographed by the US so there would be no outstanding issues.

The only note of discord was the Palestinian request to have Egyptian and Jordanian quasi-diplomatic representatives witness the initialing, an idea which was turned down by Israel. After the signing, President Bill Clinton, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, and King Hussein phoned Netanyahu, Arafat, and Ross to offer congratulations.

The Palestinian leadership, including selected members of the national council, legislative council, cabinet and PLO executive committee, met in Gaza last night and approved the Hebron agreement after a three-hour session.

While they conceded that it filled in many holes of the more sketchy

arrangements drawn in the Oslo 2 agreement, where Hebron guidelines occupied only two pages out of 300, the Palestinians considered their biggest achievement to be hard dates for three further pullbacks supported by a US letter.

This they gained by being flexible on Hebron itself, offering Israel a further year to implement the third redeployment, while bending on such issues as a police presence at the Machpela Cave and identical weapons for the IDF and Palestinian police.

Palestinian opposition groups in Beirut and Damascus, as expected, condemned the agreement, calling it capitulation to Israel's division of Hebron "into two cities."

Jon Immanuel contributed to this report.

ANALYSIS

Pullbacks terms modified, but no blank check

By DAVID MAKOVSKY

Months of Hebron talks fittingly ended in the middle of the night, underscoring a maxim from Henry Kissinger's memoirs: Middle East negotiations always end in exhaustion, rather than exultation.

While indeed exhaustion is sometimes needed for the domestic constituencies of Arabs and Israelis as leaders try to convince their skeptical supporters that they obtained the best deal possible, this time the motive is even greater, as this agreement witnessed the first Likud-PLO deal, including the first time that the Likud is yielding territory in the West Bank.

This fact dwarfs the justifiable question of whether the particulars of this deal warranted a loss of over a half year, and whether these terms are better than the Oslo II agreement on Hebron.

However, Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat wanted to make sure that Hebron was not the Likud's last territorial concession, and hence in the last two weeks, would not budge from his insistence that Israel commit to a timetable on all three West Bank

pullbacks, which is stipulated in the 1995 Oslo II accord.

Arafat won an American reaffirmation of that principle, which Washington first endorsed when it witnessed the signing of Oslo.

Yet, if Arafat won the point of principle, Netanyahu won some wiggle room regarding the timetable and the withdrawals.

The pullbacks can occur as late as August 1998 rather than September 1997, and in the most important move highlighted by the Netanyahu government, outgoing Secretary of State Warren Christopher has clarified the ambiguity that existed in Oslo II, that Israel would be able to unilaterally designate the scope of the pullbacks rather than their being the subject of negotiation. While Oslo II implied this, it was never stated explicitly before nor did this interpretation have a US endorsement.

Arafat told a Peace Now delegation the Palestinians would gain 80% of the West Bank by the end of the third pullback — and before that on Jerusalem must conclude — due to his interpretation of

Continued on Page 9

Peace process timetable

The next steps in implementing the Hebron agreement and the continuation of the Oslo Accords are as follows:

- Approval of the Israeli and Palestinian cabinets late yesterday.
- Knesset vote on accord today.
- IDF pullout from 80 percent of Hebron within 10 days of the signing.
- Within six weeks of signing, Israel begins first pullbacks from rural areas of the West Bank.
- Eight months after the first stage, Israel carries out second stage of the West Bank withdrawal.
- In August 1998, Israel carries out the third pullout, leaving the PA in charge of all of the West Bank except settlements and "military areas."
- Within two months of the Hebron signing, Israel and the Palestinians begin negotiations on a final peace agreement, tackling issues of Palestinian sovereignty, final borders, Palestinian refugees and the future of Jerusalem and of settlements. The agreement is to be reached by May 1999.

Jerusalem Post Staff

Evidence of infanticide by Romans found in Ashkelon

By JUDY SIEGEL

Hebrew University researchers have found solid evidence of infanticide of newborn males and females by Romans living in Ashkelon 1,600 years ago.

Since the skeletons — which they examined by DNA analysis to determine sex — were found beneath a Roman bathhouse located in the ancient town's "red light district," the researchers suggest the babies were unwanted offspring of prostitutes who worked there.

The pioneering research was published yesterday in the prestigious British journal *Nature*. Although infant skeletons from the Roman era had been found in various places before, it was the first time that polymerase chain reaction techniques were used on the bones to determine the sex of the babies.

Prof. Ariella Oppenheim of the Hebrew University-Hadassah Medical School said yesterday that the killing of female infants was a widespread practice in a Roman culture, because in an era without contraception, having "too many girls" was regarded as

undesirable. Thus male infanticide was much more rare. Oppenheim led the interdisciplinary research along with Prof.

Patricia Smith, Dr. Marina Faerman, Gila Kahila, Dvora

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Knesset prepares for Hebron vote

By LIAT COLLINS

The Knesset is preparing for today's vote on the Hebron agreement with faction meetings and heavy security.

It is still unclear whether the vote will be turned into a motion of confidence instead of an endorsement of the agreement. Mofet is threatening to file a no-confidence motion, which would delay the vote by a week and would also mean that ministers who vote against it will have to resign. But the government has said it would counter this by changing the vote into a motion of confidence, which would be heard the same day.

In such a situation, the National Religious Party ministers are expected to abstain themselves and the rest of the party would either vote against, abstain or leave the room.

Although the Knesset has ratified other international agreements, including the Camp David Accords and the Oslo Accords, this is the first time it is voting on an agreement which has only been initiated and not signed and implemented.

The Knesset session is scheduled to open with a speech by the prime minister, followed by an open discussion in which any MK who wants to address the House will be allocated five minutes. Copies of the agreement will be given to

the MKs before the session starts.

Knesset House Committee Chairman Raphael Pinhasi (Shas) asked that the vote be postponed to Sunday to avoid the possibility of the implementation of the agreement on the Sabbath, but Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai assured him the IDF would not be involved in Sabbath desecration.

At present, the agreement is expected to pass in the Knesset, although several MKs have said they will not support it including the nine National Religious Party MKs; 10 members of Likud-Gesher-Tsomet; three members of Yisrael Ba'aliya; and the two Mofet MKs.

Some 91 MKs will probably vote in favor of the agreement, dropping to between 59 to 42 if it is turned into a no-confidence motion.

Four Likud ministers are likely to skip the vote. In a confidence motion, ministers who wish to remain in the government must either vote in favor or be absent from the room; being present but not voting would be considered a vote against the government and force them to leave the cabinet.

Tsomet MKs Moshe Peled, Eliezer Zandberg, Pini Badash and Haim Dayan; Gesher's Michael Kleiner; and the Likud's Yitzhak Mordechai, Uzi Landau and David Re'em are all expected to either vote against, abstain or absent them-

selves.

"We are cheating ourselves. This is the Oslo Agreement but signed by the Likud," said Kleiner. "Until now we could have applied pressure, now even that is no longer possible. I think it is our duty to the voters not to support this agreement. It's a black day." MK Shaul Yahalom (NRP) said his party would vote against or absent themselves "or take action short of leaving the government. That we will not do because the alternative is a government led by Peres."

NRP faction chairman Hanan Porat asked the prime minister to allow the coalition freedom to vote not according to coalition lines in the Knesset today. He said the NRP would vote against the government even if it were turned into a no-confidence motion, although most of his party colleagues differed with him on this.

Yesterday afternoon, Labor faction chairman Ra'anan Cohen presented coalition faction chairman Michael Eltan with flowers to forward to the prime minister to congratulate him on signing the agreement.

Opposition leader Shimon Peres called Cohen from the US to praise the developments and initialing. He said he would cancel his visit and return for the Knesset vote if necessary to ensure it pass. The faction is expected to vote in favor of the agreement or abstain from a

no-confidence motion.

Yossi Beilin (Labor) said: "I'm very happy today. The prime minister has done the right thing. I'd like to welcome him to the Oslo Club."

The Democratic Arab Party said it would vote in favor of the government, even in a no-confidence motion. "If the Israeli government had the courage to adopt the Oslo Accords, which is good, we will support it," said MK Taleb A-Sansa.

"Even in a no-confidence motion because we know who is filing it and why."

Mofet leader Rehavam Ze'evi said he would consider the no-confidence motion "in the hope that Netanyahu would not be re-elected as premier. The national camp, if it still exists, would not vote for a candidate who abandoned them."

The Third Way MKs will vote for the agreement, although Alex Lubotsky said: "It cuts me in two: On the one hand

my heart is broken at leaving Hebron, the city of our forefathers, on the other hand, it's clear that this is the right step to take right now."

Meretz leader Yossi Sarid said: "I give Netanyahu all the credit he deserves on this... Today Netanyahu is following in Yitzhak Rabin's footsteps. Today the Likud government is taking the Oslo road in the knowledge that there is no other."

Likely outcome of today's vote

IN A REGULAR VOTE:

Likud-Gesher-Tsomet: 19 support; 6 against; 7 abstentions or absent
Against: David Re'em; Michael Kleiner; Uzi Landau; Ruby Rivlin; Haim Dayan; Moshe Peled; Absent/Abstain: Nadim Blumenthal (abroad); Benny Begin; Ariel Sharon; Limor Livnat; Rafael Eitan; Pini Badash; Eliezer Zandberg
Labor: 32 support; Ephraim Oshry against; Peres abstain
NRP: 7 against; 2 ministers abstain/absent
Meretz: 9 in favor
Shas: 10 in favor
UTJ: 4 in favor
Hades: 5 in favor
Democratic Arab Party: 4 in favor
Yisrael Ba'aliya: 3 support; Yurt Stern and Michael Nudelman (2) against; Yuli Edelstein abstain; Sharanovsky unsure
Mofet: 2 against (Gandi and Benny Elor)
Third Way: 4 in favor

IN CASE OF A CONFIDENCE MOTION:

Likud-Gesher-Tsomet: 26 support; 10 abstain/absent
Labor: 32 support; 10 abstain/absent
NRP: Unclear; probably all abstain/absent
Meretz: 9 abstain/absent
Shas: 10 support
UTJ: 4 support
Hades: 5 support
Democratic Arab Party: 4 support
Yisrael Ba'aliya: 3 support
Yurt Stern and Michael Nudelman (2) abstain
Yuli Edelstein, Sharanovsky and Sharanovsky unsure
Third Way: 4 support
Mofet: 2 against

Army on alert for violence in Hebron

By ARRIEN O'SULLIVAN

A large number of soldiers, police and border policemen have been brought in to Hebron to ensure a smooth redeployment in the city, expected soon after the Knesset gives its approval.

IDF soldiers have been instructed to be on special alert to foil attempts by extremists from both sides to disrupt the transfer during this sensitive interim period, military sources said.

The sources said that the massive presence of IDF forces in the city aimed to deter a repeat of an attack like that of Noam Friedman, the off-duty IDF soldier who fired on Arab shoppers in the city two weeks ago.

"Soldiers are on alert. If anything there are more forces and police and border policemen here than ever so they are actually deterring the repeat of such incidents," said one officer in Hebron.

"Right now, we are waiting for orders from the government to carry out the redeployment. Nothing has been changed yet," the officer added.

The redeployment is expected to begin following the approval of the Hebron deal in the Knesset today.

Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai issued orders to the IDF yesterday not to begin the redeployment until the Knesset gives its authorization. However, Mordechai allowed for heavy equipment to be moved following yesterday's cabinet approval of the agreement, officials in the Defense Ministry said.

Meeting with Chief of General

Staff Lt. Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak and other top IDF brass, Mordechai instructed the army and security forces to carry out the redeployment with the "minimum of friction while protecting as much as possible the lives of the Jewish and Arab residents of the city."

Mordechai also insisted that under no circumstances should the IDF violate Shabbat, indicating that the redeployment is to be either completed by Friday evening or held up until at least next Sunday. According to the protocol signed early Wednesday, the redeployment must be carried out within 10 days.

Furthermore, defense officials said, Mordechai said the redeployment must be carried out "with heads held high and in broad daylight," contrary to the late night scatter of IDF forces when they pulled out of Nablus.

OC Central Command Maj. Gen. Uzi Dayan and Maj. Gen. Gabi Ofir, commander of IDF forces in Judea and Samaria, met yesterday with top Palestinian commanders including Gen. Haj Ismail Jaber and Col. Jabril Rajoub to coordinate the redeployment, military sources said.

According to Israel Radio, the Palestinians handed over to Israel the names of the 400 Palestinian policemen who are expected to take up positions in Hebron as well as the serial numbers of their weapons, but IDF sources could not confirm this. The Hebron agreement calls for the Palestinian police to pass an internal security check "in order to verify their suitability for service."

Road ahead foggy

By HERB KEINON

The road from Jerusalem to Hebron was enveloped in a thick, thick fog yesterday morning. The cars on the road moved forward, but it was extremely difficult to see ahead, nearly impossible to know where the road would lead.

The fog seemed nature's made-to-order metaphor, eerily appropriate for the day the Hebron redeployment agreement was finally signed. The weather in Hebron throughout the day reflected the mood of the city's residents. At times rainy, grey and gloomy - for the settlers. At other times sunny, the sun illuminating the clouds and casting a crisp, El Greco-like quality over the city's hills - all for the Palestinians.

"This is a dark day," said settlement spokesman Moshe Ben-Zimra, as dark clouds drifted over the Abu Sneh hill behind him. "It is a sad day for us, and for all Israel. The government has abandoned the City of the Patriarchs."

About an hour later, standing in the sun in Gross square, Hebron resident Faiz Nasser presented the other side. "This is a very happy day, very happy," he said in clipped English. "I feel born again, because now we will be like all other people. Like Gaza people, like Ramallah people, like Jordan people, like Syrian people, like Norway people. This is a very happy day."

Then he caused a little rain of his own to fall, at least on the settlers. "This is the beginning," he said. "But in the end there will be no more colonists [settlers] in Hebron. Colonists make trouble for Hebron. Hebron is good without Jews."

Hebron Mayor Mustafa Natshe reportedly said yesterday that he can live peacefully with the Jews in Hebron if they accept Palestinian sovereignty over the city. This comment shows just how the tables have turned: For years those on the Right have been saying they can accept Palestinian

presence in Hebron, and elsewhere in Judea and Samaria, if the Palestinians accept Israeli sovereignty over all Eretz Yisrael.

Hebron yesterday, said Tor Vaagli, a member of the TIPH contingent stationed in the city, felt no different than it has for the last three months.

There were dozens of journalists, and dozens of tourists. There were rocks thrown, and IDF drills simulating attacks. There were symbolic confrontations between soldiers and Palestinians, a tense game of "king of the hill."

"Move, you can't stand here," Avi Buskila, the hero of the Noam Friedman drama, told a Palestinian man who was standing in the middle of a street and granting an interview to a reporter from Dubai.

"I will not move," he said to the reporter. "He has no right to move me."

Buskila then turned to the reporter and asked her to move, saying that her interviewee was just trying to "start a provocation."

The reporter from Dubai obliged. At one point, three soldiers cocked their rifles and - aiming their weapons - raced out of a street leading to the Avraham Avinu quarter. They were chased by reporters and cameramen. A Military Police van turned on its sirens. A couple of Palestinians began shouting. Horns honked, cars began racing every which way. The resulting feeling was one of total lack of control, a feeling that anything could happen.

This "hot pursuit," it turned out, was only a drill. The soldiers did indeed cock their weapons, but had taken the magazines out before hand. They walked back to their post near Avraham Avinu compound, past a shop where a vendor was shaking his hips and moving his arms. Speakers outside his shop were blasting the hit song, "Macarena."

The scene was surreal. The scene was vintage Hebron.



Yisrael Ba'aliya head Natan Sharansky (center) walks through Hebron yesterday guarded by border policemen and accompanied by settlers.

ANALYSIS

Security clauses aim to protect Jews

By ARRIEN O'SULLIVAN

The complicated security arrangements have one aim in mind: protecting the Jewish residents. The obvious main difference following the redeployment will be that the IDF will no longer control the entire city and some 80 percent of it will be in the hands of 400 Palestinian police armed with pistols, rifles and submachine guns.

The Palestinian forces will be in addition to the 310 Palestinian policemen currently in the villages surrounding Hebron.

The area known as H-1 will have the same Palestinian autonomy existing in Jericho, Ramallah, Bethlehem, Nablus, Jenin, Kalkilya and Tulkarim, that is, total Palestinian responsibility of civilian and security matters. While not specifically delineated in the protocol, Israel reserves the right to hot pursuit into Hebron's H-1 as it

does in the other Palestinian cities.

However, this agreement calls for "special security arrangements" to be imposed on areas adjacent to the 20 percent of Hebron which is to remain under exclusive Israeli security responsibility. These areas are to serve as a kind of buffer between Israeli forces and Palestinian police checkpoints with the aim of distancing the two forces so there is less friction and chances of conflict, intentional or misconstrued, from breaking out.

Behind these areas will be checkpoints manned by Palestinian police whose purpose will be to "prevent entry of armed persons and demonstrators or other people threatening security and public order."

Israelis traveling in H-1 will be under the responsibility of the IDF, and two joint patrols have been set up to monitor this. One

will function on Route 35 and the other on the E-Sallam Road. Furthermore, the high grounds overlooking the Jewish enclaves, including the Abu Sneh hilltop and Harat A-Sheikh, will be virtually demilitarized and patrolled solely by Joint Mobile Units.

According to the protocol, Israel is to keep all powers and responsibilities for internal security and public order in the H-2 area, where the Jewish enclave is located. Some 20,000 Palestinians also live in this area.

The Joint Mobile Units will also operate in H-2 to handle incidents that involve Palestinians only. These are the units in which Palestinians will be armed with Ingram submachine guns, which are considered to have a shorter range than the Kalashnikov AK-47 Palestinian forces traditionally carry. Israeli forces will be armed with short M-16s.

Hebron gets ready for the future

By JON INMANUEL

Palestinians began preparations on the ground yesterday for the transfer of authority to the Palestinian Authority in Hebron. Large posters of Yasser Arafat appeared in the streets with the first rains and so did blue police cars and plainclothes security agents of the Preventive Security Service.

The security service chief himself, Jibril Rajoub, a Hebron area native, is expected to transfer his headquarters there from Jericho. Col. Hisham Hijazi of the Palestinian-Israeli liaison office on Har Manoah was spreading maps of the town in front of him to get acquainted with his new beat.

The atmosphere in the 80% of Hebron now dryly called H-1 was otherwise business as usual.

In the 20% of Hebron called H-2, there was no business. On Shuhada Street, the road which has been virtually closed to Palestinians since Baruch Goldstein's February 1994 massacre impelled the IDF to close it for fear of revenge attacks against settlers there, only a few shops were open.

Business might soon expand. Shuhada Street is to revert in stages over four months "to the same situation which existed prior to February 1994," according to

the Hebron protocol. The US has promised to pump one million dollars into renovating the half-kilometer thoroughfare which has become a pedestrian mall for settlers called "King David Street."

It will be a test of the necessary new relations between Jews and Palestinians as they will have little choice but to meet there daily.

If things go wrong business might still expand. Shuhada Street is the center of Hebron's plate-glass industry and during years of friction between Jews and Arabs in the area glasscutters did a roaring business fixing windows.

There was, however, not much profit in it.

"We couldn't charge victims of Jewish violence much more than cost price. It would not have been right," said Wahid Hashlamoun, whose workshop is just 30 meters up the road from Beit Hadassah and Beit Schneerson, and another 30 meters from the IDF checkpoint at the northern entrance to the street.

Hashlamoun felt that little would change. The soldiers and the settlers will still be there and he will still feel sandwiched between them, he said.

Mayor Mustafa Natshe was more hopeful, "if the settlers change and recognize the Palestinian Authority." Some set-

tlers, he knows, are at least willing to recognize the mayor.

Natshe pursued building plans for the new Shuhada Street at the municipality. The glasscutters could turn a tidy profit fitting new windows to the new apartments planned there, though they are limited by the conditions of the Civil Affairs protocol. It permits two-story buildings only within 50 meters of Beit Hadassah and three floors between 50 and 100 meters from the building.

But the problem with Hebron, where people are identified not according to nationality but according to religions, is not political. It is theological.

Hisham Awn, who owns a pottery store directly across from the Gutnick Center outside the Machpela Cave was resigned to a continued Jewish presence, though he is in a minority. He explained: "Abraham is the father of us both. True, Isaac, his son, is buried there, but so is Ishmael his favorite son, according to our belief. Abraham had two wives Sarah and Hagar, whom he loved the same," he points out. Sarah, he conceded, is buried next to Abraham. Hagar, the mother of Ishmael, is not. "It is true," he said as though it was today's news, "she is buried in Saudi Arabia. I wonder why?"

Clinton: Seize the momentum

By HILLEL KUTTLER

WASHINGTON - President Bill Clinton called the Hebron agreement an important step in the peace process, but cautioned Israel and the Palestinians to now seize on the momentum brought by the deal.

In a short meeting with reporters just after he spoke with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and PA chairman Yasser Arafat on Tuesday night, Clinton said the agreement "brings us another step closer to a lasting, secure Middle East peace."

"Once again, the Israelis and the Palestinians have shown they can resolve their differences and help to build a brighter future for their children by finding ways to address each other's concerns. And once again, the forces of peace have prevailed over a history of division," Clinton said.

Clinton singled out Secretary of State Warren Christopher, special Middle East coordinator Dennis Ross and Jordan's King Hussein for helping get the deal done, and also thanked Egypt's President Hosni Mubarak for "his support."

Hebron Jews still hope agreement will fail

By HERB KEINON

Hebron settlement leaders conferred in an emergency meeting for more than six hours yesterday, but outside of a decision to protest at the Machpela Cave on Sunday and tear their garments in a symbolic act of mourning, they made no operative decision on how - or whether - to combat the redeployment.

"We still hope the cabinet will reject the agreement," Hebron spokesman David Wilder said after the meeting. "It is a terrible, terrible agreement."

Wilder said the settlers are "not throwing in the towel, not giving up. People are not going to leave, we will try to bring in here as many people as we can. We will have communal Shabbatot like we have had in the past - probably next week - so people can show a presence."

As to whether the settlement has plans to disrupt the actual redeployment, Wilder said: "We cannot force Jews to patrol where they don't want to patrol. We have no intention of getting into conflicts."

After more than a year of intensive efforts to stop the redeployment, Wilder said he doesn't feel the campaign has been in vain.

"The present outcome is unfortunate," he said, "but it is temporary. In three months, a year, or maybe longer, Hebron will once again become a part of Israel. At some time the Oslo process will blow up, maybe over Jerusalem, maybe over settlement expansion. But Hebron will return to us."

Settlement official Moshe Ben-Zimra said that the settlement is "realistic. We will not confront the army. We only want to live here in peace, and will not instigate anything with the Palestinians."

"Despite the situation, we will continue to live here as a symbol of steadfastness and struggle," he added.

Ben-Zimra said he believes that as a result of the agreement, the settlement will be given permission to build in the compounds that remain under its control.

"This," he said, "will still not turn us into supporters of the agreement."

Rabbi Moshe Levinger, who spearheaded settlement in Hebron nearly 30 years ago, said, "we are in danger. The IDF will be unable to protect us." But, he added, "Jews have been in danger before in Eretz Yisrael, and have lived and prospered."

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Peres: Politics can't stop peace process

By MARILYN HENRY

NEW YORK — Shimon Peres was not about to criticize the Hebron deal. "It's a good agreement in the right direction," the former prime minister said yesterday in New York.

"We are learning that the peace process has a strength of its own and that politics cannot stop the peace process from going on," he said at a news conference in New York.

"What happened with the signature was the beginning of the end of a deep ideological rift [on land] that has divided the Israeli people from the first day of its creation."

Peres said he was surprised at the speed with which the agreement was reached, and suggested that Israel had lost good will unnecessarily.

The major, mainstream American Jewish organizations issued nearly identical statements welcoming the agreement and commending Dennis Ross, the US mediator, for his efforts.

The Hebron signing was the front-page news in New York, but with decidedly different slants.

"DEAL!" was the headline of *The New York Daily News*, while the conservative *New York Post's* headline read: "Bibi's Big Gamble."

Both featured pictures of a warm handshake between Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Palestinian Authority leader Yasser Arafat.

Shamir condemns Hebron agreement

By SARAH HONG

For former prime minister Yitzhak Shamir, the agreement to cede the real heartland of the Jewish people fills me with a deep sense of loss. I see in it the abandonment of our hope.

He said he cannot imagine what caused Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to accept the Hebron agreement and "what brought this man to cast aside his principles and the ideals which guided him."

It wasn't, according to Shamir, "something preordained and unavoidable, even if Netanyahu did inherit the disastrous Oslo legacy from the previous government. It is all a matter of resolve and there is no situation with which one cannot cope."

"This man must have decided at some point that ideology no longer pays, but our ideology is not capricious," Shamir said. "It is the fruit of thousands of years of Jewish history. A man must be true to himself and to his ideological essence. How he could dance to other tunes is beyond me. I doubt he sought to curry favor with the Israeli Left, which abhors him. Perhaps it was the Americans he tried to please."

Shamir said he believes that Netanyahu had plenty of opportunity to ditch the Oslo accords he inherited, "most of all when [Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser] Arafat's men opened fire on Israeli soldiers last September. If at that point Netanyahu had invoked his concept of reciprocity, everyone would have understood why he can't rely on Arafat and why he cannot be asked to be

more loyal to any deal than Arafat is."

What hurts him the most, Shamir said, is that we "are giving away our future. Judea and Samaria is the Jewish heartland and because it is so adjacent to our centers of population, commerce and industry, its open spaces — which have not been inhabited by humans for so many centuries — where we could have made room for a huge aliya and had a viable state with a massive Jewish majority. We are in a process of relinquishing the infrastructure of our national survival."

Netanyahu's assertion that he wrought significant improvements in the original Oslo deal are "utter nonsense" to Shamir.

"The guarantees in the American letter and the interpretation in [Meretz MK] Amnon Rubinstein's letter of how much territory we will cede are laughable. Will Arafat subscribe to any of that? Will anyone remember any of this in a few months or will it become an esoteric text which only intrusively Israeli point to?"

The fact is that Arafat and those around him don't think in terms of reciprocity. They will take what they can and then it will all blow up in our faces. All the guarantees and legal interpretations are an empty shell and we in our foolishness make them the central pivot on which the nation's existence hinges. You have to be a total idiot to believe all this," Shamir said.

He wondered "what happened to the notion of direct negotiations and why the American role was allowed to be so dominant in the process, to the point that we lost



A haredi passes graffiti reading 'Bibi is a traitor' yesterday, painted on a downtown Jerusalem wall overnight and signed by the outlawed Kach movement.

our independence and self-respect."

But worst of all, Shamir said, is

"the fact that all this does not move us even a bit closer to peace. The opposite is true. The more we

give, the more the Arabs demand to satisfy their growing appetite. The tragedy is that no one

forced us into this. It was a failure of will of dramatic and historic proportions."

ANALYSIS

Hebron story far from over

By PINHAS BIRAN

The negotiations on IDF redeployment in Hebron have ended, but the Hebron story is far from being concluded. There is something peculiar to the situation in Hebron that prevented achieving an early agreement on redeployment there as a natural continuation of those from other Palestinian cities.

From the very start of the negotiations on redeployment from the Palestinian cities in the West Bank, IDF negotiators were very hesitant in dealing with Hebron's problems. The issue was as simple as the cities. One IDF negotiator said, "There will be no redeployment in Hebron, at least not like Ramallah or Nabulus. The IDF has to stay in Hebron."

During his negotiations in Taba, then-foreign minister Shimon Peres had to put special pressure on Maj. Gen. (res.) Ilan Biron to remove his objection to the articles concerning Hebron in the agreement. But even after reaching the agreement, Peres delayed its implementation and later revealed to the *Parisien Le Figaro*, that he did so at Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat's request. Peres explained that Arafat had needed more time to prepare himself to tackle Hamas.

Because the Jewish community would remain in the middle of Hebron under the agreement, it was much more palatable to Hamas than agreements on Ramallah, Jenin or Nabulus, which do not have Jewish communities in their hearts.

These same problems that delayed the conclusion

of the negotiations still must be faced during the implementation period.

Abraham Ghosheh, a Hamas leader in Amman, threatened last month that the fundamentalist movement would act against any Palestinian who signed a Hebron agreement. Despite its strong objection to Oslo agreements, Hamas never gave similar orders in the past. However, the existence of a Jewish settlement in the center of the city and the continuation of Israeli control of the Machpela Cave were even more objectionable to Hamas. And there is great sympathy among Hebron residents for Hamas's positions.

"Arafat learned this during his meeting with the Hebron leadership last year in Bethlehem. They told him they would not approve any agreement that legalizes the existence of settlers in the heart of the city and the continuation of Israeli control of the cave. They preferred the continuation of occupation another 100 years to this, they said."

Later, after details like the future of Stuhada Street were made available, even Arafat loyalist Hebron Mayor Mustafa Nasha expressed reservations because he thought those measures would consolidate the Jewish settlement's existence in Hebron.

The PA now has to start an information campaign to justify an agreement that looks to too many like a betrayal on national and religious terms. To judge from past experience, the PA will justify the agreement as a tool to a total removal of the settlers and Palestinian control of the cave. The question is, how many will be convinced.

By DAVID RUDGE

Dr. Yair Hirschfeld, one of the main architects of the Oslo Accords, enjoyed a deep sense of satisfaction yesterday after the signing of the long-awaited Hebron accord.

It was very different from his feelings on September 13, 1993, when prime minister Yitzhak Rabin and Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat signed the first Oslo accord in the presence of US President Bill Clinton at the White House.

"Everybody was in a state of euphoria after the signing, but I wasn't. I knew that the old system of enforced unilateral control was coming to an end, but a new system was not yet in place," said Hirschfeld, a senior lecturer at Haifa University's Middle East department.

Hirschfeld's contacts with Palestinian officials and subsequent secret meetings over a five-month period were instrumental in creating the breakthrough that led to the Israel-PLO accord.

"We had a paper, but it had not been agreed upon exactly how it would be implemented. Everything was extremely fragile and vulnerable, because we didn't have the new tools of cooperation in hand. These had to be developed," Hirschfeld said in an interview with *The Jerusalem Post*.

"Now, we have gone through that process, I believe very suc-

cessfully, despite the heavy price we have paid, so today I'm more optimistic than I was when the [first Oslo] agreement was signed."

Hirschfeld stressed that many difficult obstacles on the path to lasting peace remained, but he was cautiously hopeful that these could and would be overcome.

"I have a great sense of satisfaction today and a conviction that

the Oslo process is being continued and that the consensus in Israel is being widened in favor of the process," he said.

"There is no alternative to a dialogue with the Palestinians and moving forward to final status negotiations and the establishment of a permanent peace between Israel and the Palestinians."

He said the signing of the

Hebron accord shows that the process "is very strong and is attainable, and that we have reached a point of no return."

"There's no alternative to an agreed upon separation under the conditions that we want and the Palestinians want. We started on this path and now this government is continuing the process. We welcome that very much," he added.

Leah Rabin: Netanyahu must now ask Yitzhak's forgiveness

By MICHAEL YUDELMAN

LEAH Rabin commended Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu yesterday for signing the Hebron agreement, but said "on this day Netanyahu should express remorse and ask forgiveness of [former Prime Minister] Yitzhak Rabin, who was murdered for taking the way of peace, which today everyone realizes is the only way."

Rabin told Israel Radio the agreement Netanyahu and Arafat

signed is to all intents and purposes the Oslo Agreement, for which Netanyahu had attacked, cursed and incited against Rabin when he tried to implement it.

MK Dalia Itzik, head of Labor's response team, admitted she had ambivalent feelings regarding the agreement. On the one hand she was pleased that Netanyahu had finally adopted Labor's policy, but on the other hand she felt the price was very high: "Netanyahu signed the agreement, but only

after uniting the Arab world against us, turning Arafat into the world's pet and costing us other concessions."

Meretz leader Yossi Sarid said Netanyahu deserved praise and a pat on the back in his efforts to get his government on the Oslo path

LIBI - The Fund for Strengthening Israel's Defense

LIBI Thanks the Co-op Blue Square Chain

A ceremony recently took place to mark the contribution of Co-op Blue Square to the "Give your heart to LIBI" car-flag sales drive which took place last Independence Day.



Maj. Gen. (Res.) Danny Matt (left) chairman of LIBI (left), Yaacov Gelbard, managing director of Co-op (center), and Ofer Dauber, assistant to the head of Co-op's marketing department.

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What Are the Lessons from East Asia?
What are the Needs of the Middle East?

Prof. Gary Saxenhouse, University of Michigan
Prof. Moshe Ma'oz, The Hebrew University
Prof. Shmuel Eisenstadt, The Hebrew University

Chair

Prof. Ben-Ami Shillony, The Hebrew University

The ceremony will be held on Sunday, January 19, 1997, at 19:30, in the Auditorium of The Van Leer Jerusalem Institute, Albert Einstein Square, Jerusalem

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KKL-JNF invites the public to join excursions all over the country on Tu B'Shvat, 23.1.97

FROM JERUSALEM: Departure: 8 a.m. from KKL-JNF Head Office, 48 King George St. Route: Via Safat (Mt. Eitan Lookout), Ramat Razi, Marj's Forest, KKL Nursery at Eshtaal, British Park and Massua Lookout, Beit Guvrin National Park and Tel Maresha caves. Plantings: Beit Guvrin. Expected return: 6 p.m.

FROM TEL AVIV: Departure: 8 a.m. from KKL-JNF offices, 96 Hayarkon St. Route: Ayalon-Canada Park and plantings, on through Shaar HaGai to KKL Nursery at Eshtaal, President's Forest and Sculpture Route, Herzl forest and Herzl House at Hulda, Beit Guvrin National Park, Tel Maresh National Park and caves. Expected return: 6 p.m.

FROM HAIFA: Departure: 8 a.m. from Beit HaKranal Square, 16 Herzl St. Route: plantings at HaShomrim Junction, on to Jezreel Valley through Meggido Junction and Mt. Gilboa, Scenic Road from Nurit via Mt. Barkan to Meirav, Sde Trumot and Meirav Reservoir, on to Ganei Huga water park and Naharayim (Jordan without a visa). Expected return: 6 p.m.

FROM BEERSHEBA: Departure: 8 a.m. from KKL-JNF Offices, 112 HaHistadrut St. Route: KKL Nursery at Gilat, on to Eshkol Park, old synagogue at Nirim, via Besor Scenic Route, Besor suspension bridge, Mitzpe Gevulot. Planting ceremony near Nir Am Reservoir. Expected return: 5 p.m.

Excursion cost: NIS 25 per person. Cost includes: bus, guide, entry to sites and planting. No refreshments. Participants are advised to bring their own food and drink. Registration and payment at KKL-JNF offices in Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, Haifa and Beersheba (at above addresses) or by mail, or register by phoning 177-022-2191 and pay on day of excursion.

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KKL-JNF for a More Beautiful Israel

Protocol Concerning the Redeployment in Hebron

In accordance with the provisions of the Interim Agreement and in particular of Article VII of Annex I to the Interim Agreement, both Parties have agreed on this Protocol for the implementation of the redeployment in Hebron.

Security Arrangements Regarding Redeployment in Hebron

1. Redeployment in Hebron

The redeployment of the Israeli Military Forces in Hebron will be carried out in accordance with the Interim Agreement and this Protocol. This redeployment will be completed not later than 10 days from the signing of this Protocol. During these 10 days both sides will exert every possible effort to prevent friction and any action that would prevent the redeployment. This redeployment shall constitute full implementation of the provisions of the Interim Agreement with regard to the City of Hebron unless otherwise provided for in Article VII of Annex I to the Interim Agreement.

2. Security Powers and Responsibilities

a. (1) The Palestinian Police will assume responsibilities in Area H-1 similar to those in other cities in the West Bank; and

(2) Israel will retain all powers and responsibilities for internal security and public order in Area H-2. In addition, Israel will continue to carry the responsibility for overall security of Israelis.

b. In this context - both sides reaffirm their commitment to honor the relevant security provisions of the Interim Agreement, including the provisions regarding - Arrangements for Security and Public Order (Article XII of the Interim Agreement); Prevention of Hostile Acts (Article XV of the Interim Agreement); Security Policy for the Prevention of Terrorism and Violence (Article II of Annex I to the Interim Agreement); Guidelines for Hebron (Article VII of Annex I to the Interim Agreement); and Rules of Conduct in Mutual Security Matters (Article XI of Annex I to the Interim Agreement).

3. Agreed Security Arrangements

a. With a view to ensuring mutual security and stability in the City of Hebron, special security arrangements will apply adjacent to the areas under the security responsibility of Israel, in Area H-1, in the area between the Palestinian Police checkpoints delineated on the map attached to this Protocol as Appendix I (hereinafter referred to as "the attached map") and the areas under the security responsibility of Israel.

b. The purpose of the above mentioned checkpoints will be to enable the Palestinian Police, exercising their responsibilities under the Interim Agreement, to prevent entry of armed persons and demonstrators or other people threatening security and public order, into the above mentioned area.

4. Joint Security Measures

a. The DCO will establish a sub-office in the City of Hebron as indicated on the attached map.

b. JMU will operate in Area H-2 to handle incidents that involve Palestinians only. The JMU movement will be detailed on the attached map. The DCO will coordinate the JMU movement and activity.

c. As part of the security

arrangements in the area adjacent to the areas under the security responsibility of Israel, as defined above, Joint Mobile Units will be operating in this area, with special focus on the following places:

- (1) Abu Sneh
- (2) Harat a-Sheikh
- (3) Sha'aba
- (4) The high ground overlooking new Route No. 35.

d. Two Joint Patrols will function in Area H-1:

- (1) a Joint Patrol which will operate on the road from Ras e-Jura to the north of the Dura junction via e-Salaam Road, as indicated on the attached map; and

- (2) a Joint Patrol which will operate on existing Route No. 35, including the eastern part of existing Route No. 35, as indicated on the attached map.

e. The Palestinian and Israeli side of the JMU in the City of Hebron will be armed with equivalent types of weapons (Mini-Ingram submachine guns for the Palestinian side and short M-16s

"Special security arrangements will apply adjacent to the areas under the security responsibility of Israel"

for the Israeli side).

f. With a view to dealing with the special security situation in the City of Hebron, a Joint Coordination Center (hereinafter the "JCC"), headed by senior officers of both sides, will be established in the DCO at Har Manoah/Jabel Manoah. The purpose of the JCC will be to coordinate the joint security measures in the City of Hebron. The JCC will be guided by all the relevant provisions of the Interim Agreement, including Annex I and this Protocol. In this context, each side will notify the JCC of demonstrations and actions taken in respect of such demonstrations, and of any security activity, close to the areas under the responsibility of the other side, including in the area defined in Article 3(a) above. The JCC shall be informed of activities in accordance with Article 5(d)(3) of this Protocol.

5. The Palestinian Police

a. Palestinian Police stations or posts will be established in Area H-1, manned by a total of up to 400 policemen, equipped with 200 pistols, and 100 rifles for the protection of the police stations.

b. Four designated Rapid Response Teams (RRTs) will be established and stationed in Area H-1, one in each of the police stations, as delineated on the attached map. The main task of the RRTs will be to handle special security cases. Each RRT shall be comprised of up to 16 members.

c. The above mentioned rifles will be designated for the exclusive use of the RRTs, to handle special cases.

d. (1) The Palestinian Police shall operate freely in Area H-1.

(2) Activities of the RRTs armed with rifles in the Agreed Adjacent Area, as defined in Appendix 2,



A demonstrator weeps at a protest against the agreement in Jerusalem yesterday. (Grim Hand)

shall require the agreement of the JCC.

(3) The RRTs will use the rifles in the rest of the Area H-1 to fulfill their above mentioned tasks.

e. The Palestinian Police will ensure that all Palestinian policemen, prior to their deployment in the City of Hebron, will pass a security check in order to verify their suitability for service, taking into account the sensitivity of the area.

6. Holy Sites

a. Paragraphs 2 and 3(a) of Article 32 of Appendix I to Annex III of the Interim Agreement will be applicable to the following Holy Sites in Area H-1:

- (1) The Cave of Otniel Ben-Knaz / El Khali;
- (2) Elonei Mamre / Mamre Er-Rameh;
- (3) Eshel Avraham / Balatot Ibrahim; and
- (4) Ma'ayan Sarah / Ein Sarah

b. The Palestinian Police will be responsible for the protection of the above Jewish Holy Sites. Without derogating from the

above responsibility of the Palestinian Police, visits to the above Holy Sites by worshippers or other visitors shall be accompanied by a Joint Mobile Unit, which will ensure free, unimpeded and secure access to the Holy Sites, as well as their peaceful use.

7. Normalization of Life in the Old City

a. Both sides reiterate their commitment to maintain normal life throughout the City of Hebron and to prevent any provocation or friction they may affect the normal life in the city.

b. In this context, both sides are committed to take all steps and measures necessary for the normalization of life in Hebron, including:

- (1) The wholesale market - Habashe - will be opened as a retail market in which goods will be sold directly to consumers from within the existing shops.
- (2) The movement of vehicles on the Shuhada Road will be gradually returned, within four months, to the same situation

which existed prior to February 1994.

8. The Imara

The Imara will be turned over to the Palestinian side upon the completion of the redeployment and will become the headquarters of the Palestinian Police in the City of Hebron.

9. City of Hebron

Both sides reiterate their commitment to the unity of the City of Hebron, and their understanding that the division of security responsibility will not divide the city. In this context, and without derogating from the security powers and responsibilities of either side, both sides share the mutual goal that movement of people and goods within and in and out of the city will be smooth and normal, without obstacles or barriers.

Civil Arrangements Regarding the Redeployment in Hebron

10. Transfer of Civil Powers and Responsibilities

a. The transfer of civil powers

and responsibilities that have yet to be transferred to the Palestinian side in the city of Hebron (12 spheres) in accordance with Article VII of Annex I to the Interim Agreement shall be conducted concurrently with the beginning of the redeployment of Israeli military forces in Hebron.

b. In Area H-2, the civil powers and responsibilities will be transferred to the Palestinian side, except for those relating to Israelis and their property, which shall continue to be exercised by the Israeli Military Government.

11. Planning, Zoning and Building

a. The two parties are equally committed to preserve and protect the historic character of the city in a way which does not harm or change that character in any part of the city.

b. The Palestinian side has informed the Israeli side that in exercising its powers and responsibilities, taking into account the existing municipal regulations, it

infrastructure (such as water, sewage, electricity and communications) serving Area H-2.

b. The Israeli side may request, through the DCL, that the Municipality carry out works regarding the roads or other infrastructure required for the well being of the Israelis in Area H-2. If the Israeli side offers to cover the costs of these works, the Palestinian side will ensure that these works are carried out as a top priority.

c. The above does not prejudice the provisions of the Interim Agreement regarding the access to infrastructure, facilities and installations located in the city of Hebron, such as the electricity grid.

13. Transportation

The Palestinian side shall have the power to determine bus stops, traffic arrangements and traffic signalization in the city of Hebron. Traffic signalization, traffic arrangements and the location of bus stops in Area H-2 will remain as they are on the date of the redeployment in Hebron. Any subsequent change in these arrangements in Area H-2 will be done in cooperation between the two sides in the transportation subcommittee.

14. Municipal Inspectors

a. In accordance with paragraph 4.c of Article VII of Annex I of the Interim Agreement, plainclothes unarmed municipal inspectors will operate in Area H-2. The number of these inspectors shall not exceed 50.

b. The inspectors shall carry official identification cards with a photograph issued by the Municipality.

c. The Palestinian side may request the assistance of the Israel Police, through the DCL of Hebron in order to carry out its enforcement activities in Area H-2.

15. Location of Offices of the Palestinian Council

The Palestinian side, when operating new offices in Area H-2, will take into consideration the need to avoid provocation and friction. Where establishing such offices might affect public order or security the two sides will cooperate to find a suitable solution.

16. Municipal Services

In accordance with paragraph 5 of Article VII of Annex I of the Interim Agreement, municipal services shall be provided regularly and continuously to all parts of the city of Hebron, at the same quality and cost. The cost shall be determined by the Palestinian side with respect to work done and materials consumed, without discrimination.

Miscellaneous

17. Temporary International Presence

There will be a Temporary International Presence in Hebron (TIPH). Both sides will agree on the modalities of the TIPH, including the number of its members and its area of operation.

18. Annex I

Nothing in this Protocol will derogate from the security powers and responsibilities of either side in accordance with Annex I to the Interim Agreement.

19. Attached Appendices

The appendices attached to this Protocol shall constitute an integral part thereof.

Christopher's letter to Netanyahu

The following is the text of US Secretary of State Warren Christopher's letter to Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu which accompanies the agreement on Hebron:

Dear Mr. Prime Minister, I wanted personally to congratulate you on the successful conclusion of the "Protocol Concerning the Redeployment in Hebron." It represents an important step forward in the Oslo peace process and reaffirms my conviction that a just and lasting peace will be established between Israelis and Palestinians in the very near future.

In this connection, I can assure you that it remains the policy of the United States to support and promote full implementation of the Interim Agreement in all of its parts. We intend to continue our efforts to help ensure that all outstanding commitments are carried out by both parties in a cooperative spirit and on the basis of reciprocity.

As part of this process, I have impressed upon Chairman Arafat the imperative need for the Palestinian Authority to make every effort to ensure public order



Warren Christopher (David Rubinger)

and internal security within the West Bank and Gaza Strip. I have stressed to him that effectively carrying out this major responsibility will be a critical foundation for completing implementation of the Interim Agreement, as well as the peace process as a whole.

I wanted you to know that, in this context, I have advised Chairman Arafat of US views on Israel's process of redeploying its forces, designating specified mili-

tary locations and transferring additional powers and responsibilities to the Palestinian Authority. In this regard, I have conveyed our belief that the first phase of further redeployments should take place as soon as possible, and that all three phases of further redeployments should be completed within 12 months from the implementation of the first phase of the further redeployments but no later than mid-1998.

Mr. Prime Minister, you can be assured that the United States' commitment to Israel's security is ironclad and constitutes the fundamental cornerstone of our special relationship. The key element in our approach to peace, including the negotiation and implementation of agreements between Israel and its Arab partners, has always been a recognition of Israel's security requirements.

Moreover, a hallmark of US policy remains our commitment to work cooperatively to seek to meet the security needs that Israel identifies. Finally, I would like to reiterate our position that Israel is entitled to secure and defensible borders, which should be directly negotiated and agreed with its neighbors.

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat met on January 15, 1997, in the presence of US Special Middle East Coordinator Dennis Ross. They requested him to prepare this Note for the Record to summarize what they agreed upon at this meeting. The document reads as follows:

Mutual undertakings

The two leaders agreed that the Oslo peace process must move forward to succeed. Both parties to the Interim Agreement have concerns and obligations. Accordingly, the two leaders reaffirmed their commitment to implement the Interim Agreement on the basis of reciprocity and, in this context, conveyed the following undertakings to each other:

Israeli responsibilities

The Israeli side reaffirms its commitments to the following measures and principles in accordance with the Interim Agreement:

Issues for implementation:

1. Further redeployment phases
- The first phase of further redeployments will be carried out during the first week of March.
2. Prisoner release issues
- Prisoner release issues will be dealt with in accordance with the Interim Agreement's provisions and procedures, including Annex VII.

Issues for Negotiation:

3. Outstanding Interim Agreement issues
- Negotiations on the following outstanding issues from the Interim Agreement will be immediately resumed. Negotiations on these issues will be conducted in parallel:
- a) Safe passage
- b) Gaza airport
- c) Gaza port
- d) Passages
- e) Economic, financial, civilian and security issues
- f) People-to-people

4. Permanent status negotiations

Permanent status negotiations will be resumed within two months after implementation of the Hebron Protocol.

Palestinian Responsibilities

The Palestinian side reaffirms its commitments to the following measures and principles in accordance with the Interim Agreement:

1. Complete the process of revising the Palestinian National Charter
2. Fighting terror and preventing violence
- a) Strengthening security cooperation
- b) Preventing incitement and hostile propaganda, as specified in Article XXII of the Interim Agreement
- c) Combat systematically and effectively terrorist organizations and infrastructure
- d) Apprehension, prosecution and punishment of terrorists
- e) Requests for transfer of suspects and defendants will be acted upon in accordance with Article II (7)(f) of Annex IV to the Interim Agreement
- f) Confiscation of illegal firearms
3. Size of Palestinian Police will be pursuant to the Interim Agreement.
4. Exercise of Palestinian governmental activity, and location of Palestinian governmental offices, will be as specified in the Interim Agreement.

The aforementioned commitments will be dealt with immediately and in parallel.

Other Issues

Either party is free to raise other issues not specified above related to implementation of the Interim Agreement and obligations of both sides arising from the Interim Agreement.

Prepared by Ambassador Dennis Ross at the request of Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and Ra'ees Yasser Arafat

Note for the record

Handwritten signature or mark at the bottom of the page.

CAVEAT EMPTORI

The potential perils of medicine to our health

By RUTHIE BLUM

Optalgin is one of the many over-the-counter drugs which has become a household word in this country. The medicine - which comes in capsule, tablet and drop form - is produced and marketed by Teva Pharmaceuticals Ltd.

Its active ingredient, dipyrone, functions as a fever reducer and pain reliever. It's the only pill I take when I have one of those four-kids-and-a-dog headaches which mothers can ill afford; it is the medicine I force down my children's throats when their fevers continue to soar in spite of cool baths and recommended doses of Acamol; it is a drug prescribed for a gamut of ills - from back pain to strep-throat side effects.

What most of us may not have realized, myself included, is that dipyrone depletes white blood cells, which are the backbone of the body's immunization system. Indeed, among other warnings listed on the trilingual (Hebrew, Arabic and English) insert of the Optalgin package, is the following:

"This medicine may cause agranulocytosis (toxic damage to white blood cells). This reaction, which may rarely occur, is manifested by fatigue or weakness for 2-3 days, followed by fever and sore throat. At the first sign of the appearance of one of these symptoms, which may appear after 1-2 days of treatment, discontinue use of the medicine and refer immediately to your doctor."

When Mrs. X was hospitalized for fear of dehydration - as a result of ulcers in the mouth which prevented her from drinking - blood tests revealed that her white count was dangerously low, and streptococcus level dangerously high. After conducting a battery of

tests to locate the problem, hospital staffers were baffled.

When Mrs. X died only days later, hints were made to the family that perhaps the Optalgin she had been taking for chronic back pain was the culprit. If the dipyrone had destroyed her immune system - the theory went - Mrs. X would have been vulnerable to any floating viruses and bacteria. This would explain the ulcers in her mouth, as well as the strep in her system.

Tragically, Mrs. X had been complaining of the symptoms listed on the warning insert quoted above. But doctors and family members alike considered those symptoms to have been caused by her ill health, rather than by the pills she was popping to help alleviate her discomfort.

Chairman of the Division of Medicine at Jerusalem's Hadassah Ein Kerem, Professor Micha Levy, confirmed that dipyrone - which has been in use for the past 80 years - can cause damage leading to a reduction in white blood cells, but denies that the phenomenon warrants banning the drug.

"Fifteen years ago, Israel was one of seven countries which participated in a serious study of the drug to determine its harmful effects," he explained. "The study concluded that dipyrone indeed can cause agranulocytosis (as do many other drugs), but only in one of over a million cases, and only in patients who have particular sensitivity to the drug, regardless of dosage." As a result, according to Levy, while a small number of European countries then followed the American example by removing the drug from pharmacy shelves, Israel continues to sell it over the counter.

"When weighing risk against benefit where medicine is concerned," said Levy, "the question of effectiveness and alternatives

must be considered. With regard to dipyrone, we felt that the risk was far lower than the benefits. And the alternatives - which are non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs - are not only less effective in alleviating pain and reducing fever, but they, too - like all medicines - involve risk of negative side-effects, such as intestinal bleeding."

With cold and flu season upon us, it is imperative that we beware of potential perils to our health, particularly when they may be lurking in the little packages we purchase to seek salvation; and particularly when those packages are purchasable without a prescription from a doctor.

Examine all labels with a fine-toothed comb. Take no symptoms for granted. Be sure to question your physician - to the point of interrogation, if necessary - about the possible connection between the symptoms and the medicine being ingested, not only between the symptoms and the diagnosed disease.

Other medicines sold in this country which contain dipyrone are: Novalgin, produced by Hoechst, and distributed by Chemipharm; Phanalgin, produced by Trima; and Dipyrone Syrup, produced by Vitamed.

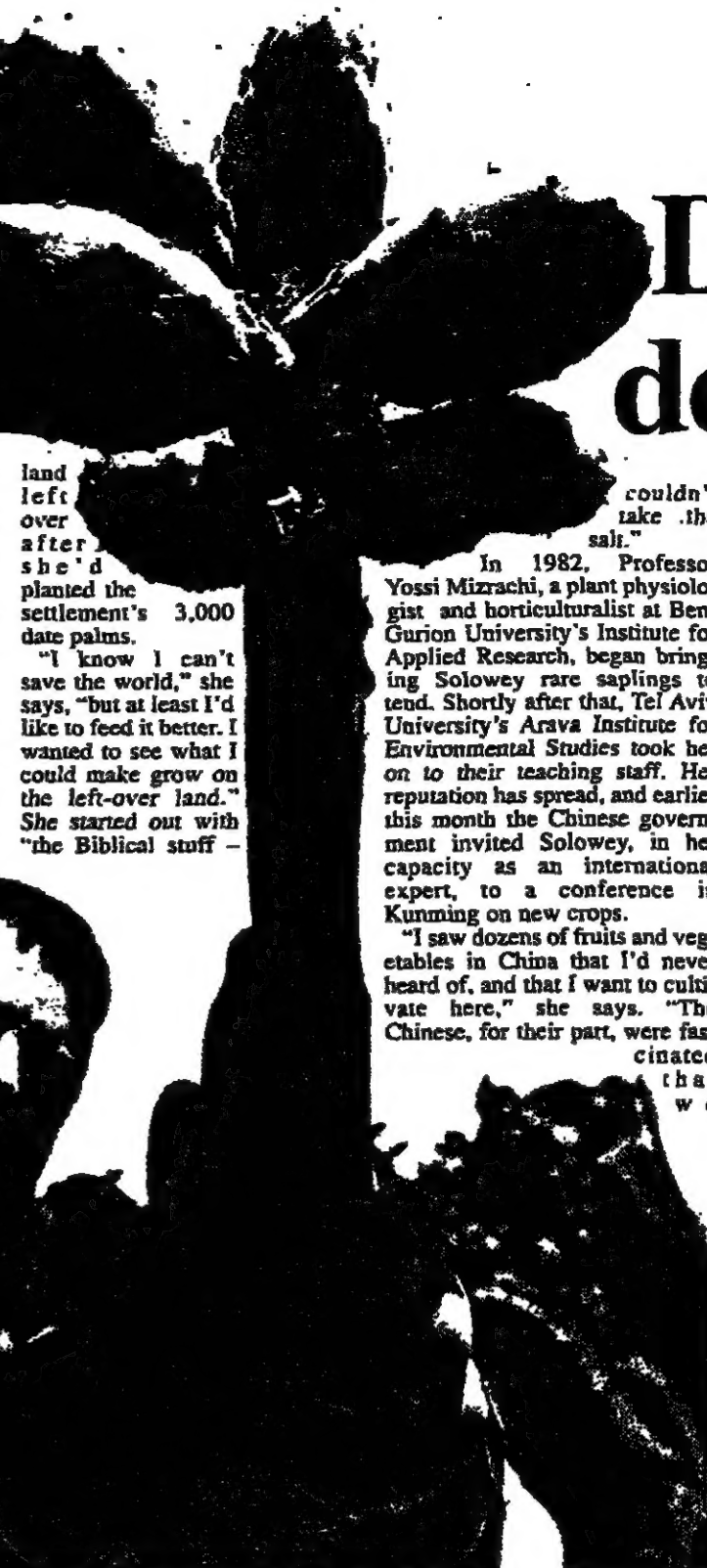
ON A LIGHTER note, here's a helpful hint for the "electronically challenged," which I picked up from a friend: If the mouse on your computer goes haywire and/or stops working for no apparent reason: unhook it completely, then reattach it. Unless the mouse is broken, this procedure actually gets the elusive rodent running again.

You are invited to offer personal stories about goods and services in this country. Write to: Ruthie Blum, POB 81, 91000 Jerusalem.

By WENDY ELLMAN

Remember when kiwi, persimmon and even avocado were new and exotic? For those with jaded palates, there's good news ahead. Soon we'll be savoring a juicy type of guava known till now only to the Bushmen of Botswana. As early as next year, we'll be able to buy a sublime crimson cactus fruit, its flavor between melon and kiwi. Next: Crisp perfumed cactus apples will make their market debut, along with the lowest-cholesterol edible oil in the world. Looking a few more years down the line, we can expect delicate lime-shaped Mexican citrus with buttery flesh, and brightly-colored fruit the size of pineapples, whose luscious creamy interior has, till now, been eaten only in Columbia.

These and a dozen more fruits



A new line of 'exotic' fruits are being developed on Kibbutz Ketura in the Negev.

(Sara Uziely)

Desert desserts

couldn't take the salt."

In 1982, Professor Yossi Mizrahi, a plant physiologist and horticulturalist at Ben-Gurion University's Institute for Applied Research, began bringing Solowey rare saplings to tend. Shortly after that, Tel Aviv University's Arava Institute for Environmental Studies took her on to their teaching staff. Her reputation has spread, and earlier this month the Chinese government invited Solowey, in her capacity as an international expert, to a conference in Kunming on new crops.

"I saw dozens of fruits and vegetables in China that I'd never heard of, and that I want to cultivate here," she says. "The Chinese, for their part, were fascinated that we

years just to sprout laboratory seedlings), she is going commercial. Some 5,000 of the saplings she's developed have been planted on Ketura, and the kibbutz hopes to have them on the market by fall 1997.

"Pitahaya is an ideal dessert," says Solowey. "It looks beautiful, it's high in vitamin C, and although its taste is rich, it has almost no calories."

Next for the market is the Moroccan argania, whose nuts produce "the best and healthiest salad oil in the world," according to Solowey, "both for its taste and because its long-chain fatty acids actually lower cholesterol levels in the body." Solowey has just planted the world's first industrial argania orchard, comprising 800 plants, and expects the first crop in three years' time.

In the spring, Solowey will be sowing 700 merula plants (the Botswana guavas), and hopes to harvest her first crop in four years' time. "Merula is especially well suited to the desert because it needs very little water," she says.

"We'll sell it for its wonderful juice, for marmalade, and for flavoring, but not as a fruit. Its skin tastes like plastic and its flesh is slimy."

Merula is not only of commercial value, Solowey suspects, but is also a tool for land reclamation. Through her large and flourishing organic citrus orchard, she's demonstrating that "organic citrus have more resistance to pests, and are also cheaper: Fertilizers and pesticides cost money, and we haven't yet found a pesticide that doesn't get into the fruit."

And she is also guarding six endangered species of desert tree that the regional council has urged her to uproot as uneconomical.

"Endangered species aren't my thing," she says. "But I'm looking after them until I find someone to take them on. It takes God a long time to make a tree, and I'm not going to kill it because it's not commercial."

Solowey has, she says, "a personal relationship with each of her trees." When she first came to Ketura in 1974, four months after it was founded, "the kibbutz had only 13 trees, all of them sick. I realized this was the place in the world that needed me most."

Equipped with the experience of a childhood spent on her grandfather's farm in Modesto, California, and North American degrees in commercial horticulture and land reclamation, Solowey has since planted over 9,000 trees on Ketura, whose fruit is sold all over the world. In her own experimental orchard, every tree has its own computer file and number. "If I lose even one, I know why," she says. As it is, 90 percent of them survive. "People on the kibbutz think I'm crazy," she says, "but they no longer run the other way when they see me coming with new fruits to taste."

FLAIR

Informally formal.

By QUEEN FAY CASHMAN

Formal wear is not as rare in Israel today as it was only a decade ago. There was never actually a time when one couldn't get a ball gown in Israel, but the choice was minuscule and if one wanted something really special it was almost impossible to find it on the rack.

A mini expedition to the northern end of Tel Aviv's Dizengoff Street or to Kikar Hamedita reveals sufficient elegance and variety to satisfy a whole ballroom full of women. But most of these gorgeous creations cost over NIS 3,000.

Knock-offs in less opulent fabrics and at prices which are much more affordable can be found in Tel Aviv's Allenby Street. The window displays here lack the class of North Tel Aviv, and the number of models crowded into a small space do a disservice to the dresses themselves.

What is worth bearing in mind when shopping for an evening dress is that how the dress looks in the window is of less importance than how the dress looks on you.

In a "that was the year that" review of the stylishness of Israeli

socialites, one of the Hebrew papers showed an unflattering photograph of a woman who does not have a herd-mensality taste, but whose clothes are very expensive (and usually interesting), and printed the nasty comment that she's the only woman in Israel who can wear a dress that cost a million dollars and make it look as if it cost a million drachmas.

The unfortunate victim of the journalist's barb has lost a lot of weight since she last donned that gown and currently looks good in just about anything she wears.

But like those of us who can't afford to spend anywhere near what she lays out for a dress, she makes the occasional mistake.

It's really much more difficult to find the right ball gown than the right street dress. A ball gown is often the subject of fantasy - something we've dreamt of wearing regardless of whether or not it really suits us. A strapless evening gown, for instance, does very little for a flat-chested woman, but so long as it stays up, it's difficult to talk her into another style if that's what she's been yearning for ever since she bought her first bra. Similarly, a double cloche skirt

over layers of petticoats, though very romantic, looks anything but that on a woman who's broad in the beam unless she happens to have a very slender waistline. Even then, she would do better to wear a skirt with a more slimming effect.

Though money is often a major consideration, the frequency with which the dress will be worn is usually primary. Just how much use can you get out of this dress?

The fancier it is, the more difficult it is to disguise it with cleverly chosen accessories, which means that if you mix in the same circles all the time, your dress is going to be brought out of mothballs on maybe three, at most four, occasions.

But if it's a minimalist dress, exuding stark drama rather than frills, flourishes, or a metallic brightness, a colored shawl or bolero, a string of beads or some eye-catching drop earrings can make it look different every time.

That of course is one of the main reasons that the little black dress has proved to be all-enduring.

But once in a while, we want something just a little more stunning, and it's good to know that it's easily accessible.

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A historic debate

THE long and often bitter debate in the cabinet last night provides a sharp reminder as to just how difficult a Likud-led government finds it to cede territory to the Palestinians. In some respects, it mirrors the furor in the Right surrounding the Camp David Accords almost two decades ago, in which Likud prime minister Menachem Begin found more support in the opposition than within his own coalition.

Unlike the peace treaty with Egypt, today's agreement with the Palestinians is considered by the right's ideological core to represent the collapse of the "Greater Land of Israel" movement. For this movement, the Hebron agreement is a double blow. Not only is Israel withdrawing from Hebron, the City of the Patriarchs, but Netanyahu has signed a commitment to complete Oslo's "further redeployments" from substantial portions of Judea and Samaria by August, 1998.

Gesher MK Michael Kleiner said, for example, that he could not understand how Netanyahu could endorse an agreement that would limit Israeli presence to "specified military locations." What about Israel's historic rights to the land? Thousands of years of Jewish history, in his eyes, have been negated; all that remains is a series of "military locations." Oslo architects from the previous government, such as Uri Savir, are quick to argue that the time for the Right to mourn was not after Oslo, but after Camp David. It was Camp David that required "redemption of... Israeli forces into specified security locations." What is more, the withdrawal of Israeli military authority was to occur just after the election of a Palestinian authority — not 18 months later as provided in the Oslo Accord.

The drafters of Camp David, in turn, argue that Oslo is a perversion of their agreement, which did not recognize any political rights for the Palestinians, only the right to govern themselves under Israeli sovereignty. Begin even had President Jimmy Carter write a letter confirming that Israel understood the phrase "Palestinian people" to mean "Palestinian Arabs" so as not to concede that the Palestinians were a distinct people within the Arab nation. The same provisions, they argue, when combined with recognition of political rights, amount to the creation of a proto-state, which never would have been accepted by the Begin government.

The current finger-pointing is a bit reminiscent of the "who lost China" debate in the US when that country fell to the Communists in 1948. Now the Right is looking for "who lost the Land of Israel" while the Left holds up a mirror, so Rightists can look at themselves.

The truth of the matter is not so simple. Netanyahu should not be blamed for presiding over the collapse of the Land of Israel movement. He did not let the horse out of the barn; when he arrived he found an empty stable with the door wide open.

The psychological withdrawal from the territories captured by Israel in the defensive 1967 war began as soon as they came under Israel's control. Except for the Golan and eastern Jerusalem, they were never annexed, and always treated as bargaining chips in the struggle for peace. The Likud tried over the years to debunk the "land for peace" formula enshrined in UN resolutions, but never succeeded in promoting any alternative that convinced the majority of Israelis, let alone world opinion. The Likud-negotiated Camp David agreement represented the land-for-peace model in its purest form.

The refusal of successive Israeli governments to robustly assert Israel's legal and moral claims to Judea and Samaria, coupled with exhaustion after decades of acting as occupiers of the areas, made withdrawal from the historic heartland of the Land of Israel inevitable. It is hard to imagine that the Right really believed that Netanyahu would reverse these fundamental aspects of the political landscape and throw Oslo out the window.

The challenge for the Right now is not to hang on with its fingernails to an ideology that has lost its foundations over decades. The playing field is "land for peace"; the challenge for the Right is to try to change the rules of the game, rather than just sulk on the sidelines.

Likud faction leader MK Michael Eitan has taken a lot of flak from the Right lately for negotiating with super-dove MK Yossi Beilin over a final status blueprint. It is certainly possible to argue with what they have produced, but in principle Eitan is on the right track.

Netanyahu is accused by the Right and praised by the Left for essentially adopting the Oslo process as his own. Labor faction head MK Ra'anan Cohen even gleefully presented his Likud coalition with a large bouquet of flowers for Netanyahu, with thanks for implementing "Labor's" agreement.

The fact is that there is a wide range of outcomes consistent with the Oslo agreement, and the jury is still out as to whether Netanyahu will be more successful in steering Oslo towards a better outcome for Israel than Peres would have.

The Land of Israel movement could just die, or it could evolve into a force that asserts Israel's claims to the land within the context of Oslo. The main arena for negotiations over territory will be over the large empty areas of the territories, where neither Israelis or Palestinians live today. How much of these areas Israel ultimately retains depends largely on Israel's success in asserting its legal, historic and moral rights in the face of the claim that is occupied Palestinian territory. If the Land of Israel movement continues to go for all or nothing, defeat is guaranteed, and the war of ideas will be left to those who have no interest in asserting Israeli claims. If this movement instead adapts to current realities, the result could be a significantly better outcome for Israel.



Hebron and harsh truth

WHEN Binyamin Netanyahu shook hands with Yasser Arafat in the early hours of yesterday morning he winced, as though he was suffering from a painful stomach ailment.

He certainly had digestion problems. But they were nothing compared to the heartache of the 56 percent of Jews who had believed Netanyahu meant what he said during the last elections: that the security of the people who lived in this country would dominate all future negotiations with Arafat.

They had also understood that when the government gave Netanyahu, David Levy and Yitzhak Mordechai the authority to negotiate a deal over Hebron, security considerations would prevail.

But instead of focusing on Hebron alone, they acted in a totally undemocratic way, buying themselves with negotiating over Judea and Samaria.

The harsh truth is that Hebron was just a smokescreen for the preparation of a massive betrayal of every promise regarding security, Zionism and just about everything else Netanyahu stood for, including his hawkish stand on terrorism.

No matter how many smooth words are murmured by Netanyahu's minions, it needs to be said: He has given in to every one of Arafat's demands.

Although lacking the authority to do so, Netanyahu has agreed that by mid-1998 — i.e. in 18 months' time — in addition to the Jewish ghetto being established in Hebron, all the settlements in Judea and Samaria will also become ghettos facing a sea of armed Arabs.

The Jewish state of Israel, the dream of millions of Jews for 2,000 years, the state for which pioneers toiled, for which soldiers fought and died in six wars over 10 decades, will be truncated and compressed into the pre-1967 borders.

This was the Peres-Rabin "dream," a scenario no Likud prime minister could possibly ever imagine going along with.

Now, by the grace of a "right-wing extremist" Israeli government, a massive force of heavily-armed Palestinians will be squatting on our border, just waiting to join. They should be asking themselves how many families won't join once they are told what they must do to prove financial hardship.

Recently, in Newton, Massachusetts, the Jewish community center built an outdoor swimming pool over the objections of the membership. They increased family dues to \$650 for the first year, and charged an additional \$1,000 to swim in the summer. I can assure you this did not sit well with our Jewish youth, especially the ones coming from less affluent families. Is it any wonder that Jewish youth (of marriageable age) are "turned off" and away from Jewish communal life when they see unethical and "un-Jewish" behavior like this? *SYLVIA ROSE*
Needham, Mass.

GREAT TOURIST COUNTRY

weeks. I now understand the complaints of both the Israelis and Arabs of an American press that is to sensationalistic and irresponsible.

While in Israel, including the West Bank, we talked with people of all backgrounds and religions and with some exceptions, for security reasons, all spoke of the very real hope of peace. We felt safer from assault and crime in Israel than at home. We thank you for sharing the wonders and history of your great land that have shaped the world. We thank your people for their warm hospitality. After our visit, we are more hopeful than ever that "next year in Jerusalem," there will be war no more and that the recent incident will not deter Israelis and Palestinians from the painful process and path of peace. *MICHAEL A. GLUECK, MD*
Newport Beach, California

ACT OF HEROISM

Sir, — Recently, while driving my three children to school in Herzliya, I noticed a billowing cloud of black smoke rising from a nearby neighborhood. Before my very eyes, and those of the horrified crowd that had gathered, a home was going up in flames. No fire-trucks had arrived, the house was rapidly burning and people were screaming that the

family was inside. But everyone just stood there, watching helplessly. Everyone except Yonatan Shalem, a Herzliya resident, who, like many of us, had simply been passing by.

Without asking any questions, or hesitating for a moment, Yonatan took a large rock, approached the burning house, and broke down the door

which had been locked from the outside, trapping a young father and his two-year-old daughter inside. They emerged from the house somewhat dazed, but safe and uninjured. Yonatan had rescued them just in time, burning his own hand in the process. *JANET AGASSI*
Herzliya.

URI DAN
DENNIS EISENBERG

pounce and implement Arafat's oft-repeated plan for a holy Jihad in which he will reign in Jerusalem, his capital, as head of a Moslem country.

One of the negotiators in the Netanyahu team told this column, "It is quite true that Arafat promised nothing whatsoever. But the Americans have written letters setting out the obligations of both sides."

"Included are suggestions like

**The agreement
hides a massive
betrayal of
everything
Netanyahu
stood for**

Arafat amending the PLO charter. It is also hoped that he will disarm the Hamas and Islamic Jihad movements."

"Do you believe Arafat will stick to a letter written by the Americans?" we asked the negotiator.

His embarrassed answer was, "Frankly, no." "So why did you do it?" we asked.

The reply came hesitantly. "We can't afford to antagonize the US."

A DELUGE of misinformation is now certain to flood us. But these are the simple facts: Terrorists, murderers of Jews, will continue to find a safe haven in Arafatland, or go on serving in his armed forces.

The concept of hot pursuit, only vaguely mentioned in the Oslo accords, was never applied, even when a Jewish mother and her son were murdered, as happened near Beit El recently. It will remain a joke to Arafat and his people.

Israel must be the only country in the world that allows its citizens to be butchered without making any real effort to track down the murderers.

The Netanyahu negotiator told us: "Arafat does not even dare to bring Hamas and Islamic Jihad

under control. He knows that he will face civil war if he even considers it."

Arafat will have an open port through which he will be able to bring in the most modern weapons of war without anybody daring to emit a squeak of protest.

Back in 1946 Arthur Koestler wrote his classic *Thieves in the Night*, in which he showed how Labor youth outwitted both the British Mandatory authorities and the Arab marauders and terrorists of the day to set up settlements in the furthestmost corners of the land of the Jews. They worked the fields by day and, at night, stood guard to fight off intruders.

How ironic it is today to see the spiritual heirs of these staunch socialists throwing their weight behind Netanyahu, Jabotinsky's alleged spiritual heir. It turns the process those young Zionist idealists launched on its head.

Instead of settling, building and creating a land, they are planning to let settlements die.

At this charge the present

Likud-led government will throw up its hands in horror and say: "We won't dismantle settlements."

Well, there are two methods of destruction. You can bulldoze dwellings yourself, or you can ensure that they become isolated. Once you turn them into ghettos they will decay by themselves, or likely fall prey to "external" forces.

It is being said that under the new arrangements Israel will decide when and where to re-deploy its armed forces in Judea and Samaria.

But even this is dishonest, because within 18 months Arafat will be in control of 90 percent of the territories. So what will be left to negotiate? Nothing.

The Hebron agreement opens the door to the miniature, indefensible Israel Shimon Peres was prepared to accept. But men and women with Zionist faith in their homeland toppled Peres.

We believe they will once again prevail.

The writers are authors of *The Mossad: Secrets of the Israel Secret Service and other books on the Middle East*.

PICTURE POSTSCRIPT



It's not the first time London was blitzed from the air. A baked-bean eating contest, which raised funds for charity, challenged contestants to eat as many beans as they could — one at a time — in five minutes. In this photo, bean lover Bill Currie warms up with a taste of what's to come.

POSTSCRIPTS

NEO-NAZIS and their ilk are pushing a message of hate at young minds through rock concerts, videos and the Internet, European experts warn.

An alliance of Swedish and American extremists, seeking a base for the future by influencing teenagers, is at the forefront, participants said at a meeting on the dangers of right-wing extremism in Europe.

"They are attempting to manipulate young people, and they have chosen music as their main tool," said Steven Silver, of the British anti-fascist magazine *Searchlight*.

He said a recent album by the No Regrets band in England violated the law with lines calling for the killing of communists and Jews. He said they even boast on the label that the album is "guaranteed to incite racial hatred."

Another *Searchlight* staffer, Graeme Atkinson, said Swedish neo-Nazis have influence beyond their numbers, overtaking the Nazi skinhead movement in Britain. He said they were allied with U.S. Nazis.

Tobias Hubinette of Sweden said that Swedish neo-Nazis and extreme rightists were heavy producers of hate music, holding 60 to 70 concerts a year.

He said for a few weeks in 1995, an album by the Swedish skinhead group Midgards Sonner was the best-seller among young Swedes.

Happy days

LARRY DERFNER

I can't remember the last time I felt so optimistic about this country. As things are turning out, the election of Binyamin Netanyahu was a blessing in disguise.

Suppose Shimon Peres had scraped in by a few thousand votes. His government wouldn't have had a mandate to do anything. The right wing, with its large Jewish majority in the election, would have crowned itself the true ruler of Israel, and driven the government crazy.

Imagine Peres running the country with a minority of Jewish votes and the barest majority of Israeli votes, trying to get the army out of Hebron. There would have been war in the streets and mayhem in the Knesset.

Under Netanyahu, the Hebron agreement should get 80-90 votes in the Knesset, and the streets are quiet.

No longer can the ideological settlers and other Jewish tribalists claim that at least half the country is with them. The government they prayed for has turned away from them, and now they have no access to power.

The most dangerous force in this country has been checkmated, and only a National Camp government could have done it.

The Netanyahu regime didn't want to cast off the Breznev faithful. These were their hardest-core supporters. No, the government threw them over because it had no real choice.

When push comes to shove, 75-80 percent of Israelis want the Oslo peace process to go forward. The entire rest of the world, except for the Diaspora Jewish and Christian Right, agrees.

NETANYAHU can't go against all this. For three months he tried, and ended up with a Palestinian rebellion and the prospect of war and ostracism.

**It's taken a
reactionary
government to show
how liberal our
society really is**

So he did the only thing he could do — he changed. He decided to go along with the program, and little by little people have begun to breathe more easily.

We on the Left were so depressed after the election. We thought the nationalist and Orthodox hardliners were going to put their stamp on every corner of Israeli life.

It's taken the advent of a reactionary government, of a prime minister whose strongest backers were radical settlers and haredim, to reveal the nature of Israeli society.

It is more liberal-minded than we knew, and much more resilient.

Remember Education Minister Zevulun Hammer's plan to inculcate pupils with the National Religious Party's notion of "values"? You don't hear much about it anymore, because Hammer's found out he can't pull it off. The country's education establishment, a pretty enlightened bunch on the whole, won't let him.

This week Netanyahu and Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi tried the most arrogant abuse of power, installing an attorney-general whose main qualifications were his Likud membership and his friendship with Hanegbi.

Between the embarrassment in the cabinet and the all-out opposition from the legal community and the media, Roni Bar-On's appointment lasted three days.

The system worked. Netanyahu and his allies talk of "replacing the elites." They are learning it may be impossible.

The media, universities, legal profession, business community and even military — the "permanent establishment" — are led by people whose worldview is very different from this government's.

At the grassroots, about three-quarters of Israelis are neither committed right-wingers nor Orthodox fanatics.

The government may be mostly rightist, national religious and haredi, but the real power in this country, in numbers and influence, lies with the Left and post-ideological center, the secular and religiously moderate.

I don't want to get silly. There are still a couple of things wrong with this country. But it isn't going to hell like many of us thought, and it is strong enough to bend this government to its will.

History is full of ironies. I'm learning to appreciate living in the Netanyahu era.

The writer is a journalist living in Tel Aviv.

2001/1/16

DEAR RUTHIE

Tricolor passion evades husband

By RUTHIE BLOOM

Dear Ruthie,

In the past few months, my wife has developed a sudden passion for anything French. She watches French movies, listens to French music, and is planning a trip to Paris with a woman friend.

A girl who grew up in Haifa (with yekke parents), she doesn't exactly come by her Francophilia naturally. So I tease her about it. This gets her furious, though I really don't mean anything by it.

Last week, she delicately tried to suggest that we rent a house in France during the summer - which we'll be able to afford, according to her, by renting out our apartment. Normally, when we go abroad, it is to visit my family in the States. I don't mind going to Europe for a short vacation, but a whole summer is out of the question. When I told her this, she said that maybe she'd just go without me.

I don't know what's gotten into her. I mean, it's clear that she doesn't care that France is causing us marital problems. I just don't understand why a place she's never even been to could be more important to her than our marriage. Maybe you could enlighten me.

French Fried,
Rishon LeZion

Dear French Fried,
It may, indeed, be clear that the two of you are having marital problems; yet it is not at all clear that they originated at the Eiffel Tower.

Your wife's sudden passion for a foreign country is probably a symptom of a greater problem, rather than the cause. What the "greater problem" is - in terms of your life together - is something both of you must examine. What this particular symptom points to, however, is easier to pinpoint.

Exaggerated attraction to a foreign culture usually indicates a desire for "metamorphosis." If your wife harbors such a desire, she is suffering from a small degree of internal strife. Though you cannot be to blame for such strife, you may be contributing to it in some way - or exacerbating it. This may be why she is so touchy about your teasing, and why you might try easing up on the teasing, and investing more energy into trying to understand what she is going through right now.

The question of why France should be the target of her focus also needs examining. The simple explanation - albeit most painful to acknowledge - could be that another man (with a French passport) is involved. A far more complex explanation might lie in the question of what France symbolizes for your wife. As when interpreting dreams, "translating" the symbols is the best way to decipher the message behind them.

Whatever the underlying cause of your marital problems, however, the "external" reality is that you and your wife are not communicating in the same language. Without the two of you attempting first to rectify this particular problem, your wife may as well be speaking in French.

Dear Ruthie,
My sister lives with her husband and seven children in Jerusalem. I will be coming to Israel to visit them next month. My problem is: How can I bring them presents, without going broke? (Even if I could afford it, I wouldn't know where to begin selecting.) Can you help me find a solution?

Going for Broke
New Jersey, USA

Dear G for B,
One possibility is buying a single gift for the entire family, which can be appreciated by children and parents alike. Examples of this kind of present are: a popcorn machine, a cotton-candy maker, a waffle iron, or - if junk-food preparation is not your sister's ship - a video camera.

Letters should be addressed to: "Dear Ruthie," POB 81, 91000 Jerusalem. For E-mail: editors@jpost.co.il

By JAY LEVINSON

On January 1, the eastern Jerusalem daily newspaper *An-Nahar* printed its last issue.

To most Israelis the closing of yet another Arabic-language newspaper was of little importance, yet no statement could be so far from the truth. This event was the symbol of wide-ranging political implications.

An-Nahar was established as a weekly by its editor, Othman Al-Hallaq, and its publisher, Isam Al-Anani, in March 1986. The political perspective of the paper was clear - born in the wake of

Al-Quds and its editor, Mahmoud Abu Zalaq, moving away from a pro-Jordanian stance, *An-Nahar* was designed to fill the pro-Jordanian void.

The line was clear, running from the logo of the newspaper featuring Petra, to the choice of editorial material. An early serial, for example, was a translation from English into Arabic of a book about Jordan written by the Crown Prince.

The newspaper had another objective. Al-Hallaq, a successful businessman in a number of ventures, yearned for a political career. He hoped that *An-Nahar* would catapult him into the political arena just as Hana Siniora did with *Al-Fajr*.

After a year as a weekly, *An-Nahar* started, in April 1987, issuing daily editions from its small offices on the upper floor of the old Red Crescent Building in the back of the Rockefeller Museum. Throughout the history of the paper, from early growing pains to the era of personnel cuts before closing, the emphasis was on quality.

But the period of growth at *An-Nahar* was short-lived. With the onset of the intifada and the Jordanian relinquishment of the West Bank, the fortunes of the newspaper declined.

The newspaper was viewed as not only pro-Jordanian, but, as a consequence, anti-PLO. Readership fell, advertisements

became fewer, and threats against the newspaper, its editor and its publisher increased, and several of the offices were burned.

Yet, the level of current-events analysis was right on the mark. In the initial days of the intifada, the paper described the uprising as a spontaneous Arab revolt taken over by the PLO.

It was an open secret that the declining *An-Nahar* was being supported financially by the Jordanian government.

The establishment of the Palestinian Authority, however, dramatically changed the atmosphere. Distribution of *An-Nahar* was temporarily stopped in Gaza, according to Al-Hallaq, due to the newspaper's political stance.

Jordan renounced its last political connections in the West Bank (the local Moslem councils), and it stopped its subsidy of *An-Nahar*.

From that moment, in early 1996, the fate of *An-Nahar* was sealed. Reductions in staff and operating expenses were only temporary stop-gaps.

When *An-Nahar* closed, it brought into clear focus the Jordanian "withdrawal" from all claims, civil and religious alike, on the West Bank.

It also made clear the reality that Jordan absolutely does not view itself as an option to the PLO.

The closing of newspapers in eastern Jerusalem is not new. *Al-Anba*, a post-1967 effort to bring the Israeli voice to the Arab sector, was an early casualty. Siniora's *Al-Fajr* folded, first in its weekly English version, then in its daily Arabic edition. The pro-PLO *Ash-Shaab* also closed. Only *Al-Quds*, moving from its earlier pro-Jordanian stance to staunch PLO support, remains in Jerusalem as a daily.

Today there are new newspapers in the Palestinian Authority, *Al-Hayat*, *Al-Jedideh* ("New Life") and *Al-Ayam*, reportedly



As the year began, the eastern Jerusalem daily newspaper *An-Nahar* printed its last issue. While many papers have died, this passing is rich with political implications. (Saba/Hanan)

run with PLO subsidies and clearly adhering to the organization's political line. Only the future will tell if the Palestinian Authority will be as liberal with dissenting editorial opinion as Israel has been.

The passing of *An-Nahar* marks not only the death of a newspaper, it also marks the final eulogy for the so-called "Jordanian Option."

Walking a difficult tightrope

Nechemia Meyers reports on a Palestinian journalist who writes as openly about PA rights abuses as he does about Israel



Toahmeh: His first allegiance is to the truth. (Courtesy of the newspaper Yerusshalayim)

When 32-year-old journalist Khaled Abu Toahmeh was married some time ago in Jerusalem, both Ehud Olmert, the city's right-wing mayor, and alumni from Fatah's crack Force 17 were on hand to celebrate the event.

Olmert was there because Khaled's father, Jamil Abu Toahmeh, heads the municipality's Education Department in eastern Jerusalem, and the Force 17 men came because most Palestinian officials respect him (though they don't always like what he writes).

A handsome, soft-spoken young man who calls himself a "Palestinian intellectual," Khaled has managed - sometimes with the greatest of difficulty - to remain on reasonably good terms with both sides of the Arab-Israeli conflict during his career as a journalist, which began in 1980 soon after his graduation from the Anglican High School in Jerusalem and in parallel to his studies at the Hebrew University.

He was initially employed by the Arabic-language service of the Arab Television where, after a period monitoring Arab TV stations, he was appointed its correspondent in the territories and the editor of its evening news broadcast. During that same period, Khaled worked as a same period, Khaled worked as a free-lance for *al-Fajr*, an eastern Jerusalem newspaper which served as a major PLO mouthpiece in the '80s.

The fact that *al-Fajr* agreed to use his stories indicates that Arafat and company had decided that Khaled was "clean" and this helped him gain access to Palestinian who weren't ready to talk to other reporters. So

when he left the IBA in 1989, at a time that the intifada had put a premium on "Palestinian news," Khaled had no trouble obtaining positions with Israeli publications like the Hebrew-language *Yerushalayim* and *The Jerusalem Report*, as well as with overseas media such as NBC, the Voice of America and *US News and World Report*. He was also hired to serve as co-producer of a half-dozen TV documentaries made by the BBC, German TV, Britain's Channel 4 and others.

Khaled is old-fashioned enough to proclaim that his first allegiance is to the truth and, among other things, he hasn't hesitated to write hair-raising stories about both the torture of Palestinians by Israelis and by the Palestinians themselves. He later reportedly caused

Palestinian Authority security chief Jibril Rajoub to declare, albeit privately, that Khaled would be sitting in one of their jails had he not been an Israeli citizen.

But Khaled is still better off in this respect than Bassem Eid, who went from exposing human rights abuses in Israel to reporting similar abuses in areas controlled by the PA. And instead of responding to the charges, Rajoub, speaking on Israel TV, called Eid "an Israeli collaborator," which, Khaled says, is the equivalent to putting out a contract on him.

In such circumstances, it takes considerable guts for Khaled to say that the Palestinian Authority "has no respect for its own press," which enjoys less freedom than it did under the Israelis, who wouldn't shut down a paper just because it didn't put someone's picture on the front page.

It is for this reason, he notes, that Palestinians who have complaints against the PA come to him with their stories, because papers on the other side wouldn't dare touch them. And by the same token, Khaled would not - under present circumstances - embark upon a journalistic career in the Palestinian media.

Khaled speaks openly about "the enormous corruption, bribery and nepotism in Palestinian areas." He cites the fact that the director-general of an important ministry is the minister's son, while another of his sons runs a firm that supplies the

ministry with computer services. And in Ramallah, he adds, you can't build a house or even bring in cement without giving a cut to senior Palestinian officials, "who claim to be contractors and engineers."

Overall, Khaled declares, "you never know who spends public money and on what it is spent. As a result, Palestinians, in private conversations, are apt to talk about their present rulers as 'the Mafia.'"

As Khaled sees it, this lack of democratic safeguards and accountability constitute a greater threat to the future of the Palestinian people than Islamic fundamentalism, which, he claims, is not particularly strong among them. When asked why the foreign press writes so little

about this corruption, Khaled suggests that the correspondents are simply anxious "to remain on good terms with the Palestinian Authority."

This is not to say that Khaled is an admirer of the Netanyahu government, whose policies, he says, have convinced the Palestinians that the Israelis don't want an equitable settlement. "Had the Oslo agreements been fulfilled, a Palestinian state established and the refugees given generous compensation," he says, "I think that there would have been peace for at least the next century, particularly since what happened in Kuwait has convinced the Palestinians that the international community won't allow any nation to disappear from the face of the earth."

INFANTICIDE

Continued from Page 1

Filon and Prof. Charles Greenblatt of the faculties of medicine and dental medicine in Jerusalem, with Prof. Lawrence Stager of Harvard University in Boston.

The team analyzed some 100 infant skeletons found in an ancient "gutter" under a bath-house in an archeological dig in Ashkelon, which in ancient times was a major seaport. The bath-house was built over earlier Roman villas, where lamps decorated with erotic images had previously been found. The Greek inscription "Enter, enjoy and..." was discovered in the bathhouse, indicating that it could easily have served as a brothel, a common facility in the Roman Empire.

Oppenheim said that the ancient street on which the villa was located was apparently Ashkelon's "red light district." There is no evidence that Jews lived there at that time, said Oppenheim. "As there is no sign of synagogues from that era."

The babies, whose bones were found mixed with animal bones, coins and pottery shards, had just been discarded; they did not receive an orderly burial. On the basis of dental development and bone size, the infants are believed to have died just a day or two after they were born.

Since there were no signs of disease or malformation, the idea that the prostitutes wanted just to get rid of their healthy babies seems realistic. Of the 19 left femoral bones successfully tested (only left femurs were examined to avoid the possibility of testing the same baby twice), 14 were males and five females - a very surprising finding.

The research, funded by the Israeli National Science Foundation, proves the importance of DNA examination of human remains, Oppenheim said, adding: "It makes an important contribution to archeological and anthropological research by providing clear evidence to resolve questions that archeology alone cannot answer."

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BUSINESS

in brief

Kaul: Bezeq rate hikes less than other utilities

Bezeq rates have risen much less than the Cost-of-Living Index over the past decade, and lag way behind electricity and postal rates and the cost of a bus ticket, Bezeq director-general Yitzhak Kaul said this week. These other prices have increased by an average of 232% since 1987, while Bezeq rates have gone up by only 121%.

Judy Siegel

Zucker calls for panel to oversee IBA budget

MK Dedi Zucker (Meretz) has proposed transferring sole authority for the Israel Broadcasting Authority's budget from the government to the Knesset Finance Committee in order to reduce the IBA's dependence on the government. Zucker based his suggestion on the way the State Comptroller's Office receives its budget.

Liat Collins

Cellular phone use expected to triple by 2000

Some 100 million people around the world (about 1.1m. of them Israelis) have cellular phones, and their number is due to triple by the year 2000, according to Dr. Yosef Shapira, president of the National Committee for Radio Sciences of the National Academy of Sciences. Lecturing at the Holon Center for Technological Education this week, Shapira urged the establishment of a national telecommunications authority to plan development of communications technology.

Judy Siegel

Sharansky wants to reduce trade gap with EU

Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky is calling for action to be taken to reduce the trade gap between Israel and the European Union, which currently totals some \$10 billion. Sharansky met this week with EU ambassador Jean Paul Jasse.

David Harris

Ladbroke Group and Hilton sign agreement

Guests at Hilton Hotels around the world will soon enjoy preferred guest status as a result of an alliance between the Ladbroke Group and Hilton Hotels Corporation. The agreement between the Ladbroke Group, its subsidiary Hilton International, which holds the rights to the Hilton name outside the US, and Hilton Hotels Corporation, which has the US rights, provides for joint promotion and a customer loyalty program.

Haim Shapiro

Ansaldo and Raytheon reps meet with Meridor

Finance Minister Dan Meridor met representatives of Ansaldo Transporti Spa and Raytheon Co. on Tuesday to discuss their possible involvement in the planned Tel Aviv mass-transit rail system. The companies already work together on several transportation projects around the world. The two companies presented an outline of their operations. Meridor pointed out that the consortium is in open competition with several others from around the world.

David Harris

Efrat Wincellars buys \$1.5m. in new equipment

Efrat Wincellars, a wine manufacturer, has recently invested \$1.5 million in equipment intended to increase production efficiency. The equipment, which is designed to automatically fill and package bottles, is expected to increase the company's production capacity to 7,000 bottles per hour.

Gali Lipkis Beck

Neveh Harif opens new dairy

Members of Kibbutz Neveh Harif in the Arava officially began using their new NIS 5.5 million dairy this week. Initially the dairy will produce 1.5m. liters of milk annually from 170 head of cattle, with this figure expected to double within two years.

David Harris

'96 inflation 10.6%, December CPI up 0.8%

By DAVID HARRIS

Inflation totaled 10.6 percent in 1996, the Central Bureau of Statistics announced yesterday. This compares with 8.1% for 1995 and 14.2% in 1994. The government target for 1996 was 7% to 10%.

The December Consumer Price Index rose 0.8% to 143.1 points - making it the seventh consecutive month in which the CPI increased by less than 1%.

The major price increases last year were in housing (13.1%), health care (14%) and food excluding fruits and vegetables (11.2%). The lowest price rises were in fruits and vegetables (4.9%), clothing and footwear (5.2%), and household furniture (7.4%).

The key factors affecting December's CPI were a 1.9% increase in the cost of housing (apartments for purchase up 1.9% and for rent 1.6%) and a 1.2% price rise in household goods. On the other hand there were decreases in the cost of fruits and vegetables (-2%) and clothing and footwear (-0.5%).



Finance Minister Dan Meridor: Rigid aims for next four years may be foolhardy. (Jesse Hersh)

Former finance minister Avraham Shohat (Labor) told reporters that while he was pleased the inflation rate was lowered from an annual 15% rate in June to its final 10.6%, if the central bank does not act immediately to lower interest rates and allow a substantial change in exchange rates Israel could yet face a recession.

Manufacturers Association president Dan Propper said the 1996 inflation rate was achieved at a very high cost to the economy in general. "We've wasted a year," he said.

Now the attention of the Treasury and central bank will turn to future targets. The 1997 aim, already agreed by Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frenkel, Finance Minister Dan Meridor and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, is to keep inflation somewhere between 7% and 10%.



Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frenkel: Pushing for year-by-year goals until 2001. (A. Hersh)

Following a meeting with Netanyahu, the two agreed to a compromise as follows: If the 1997 budget is successfully implemented, and there are clear signs of stability, Meridor will consider

setting the 1998 target as early as mid-1997. Israel should also have an inflation rate similar to industrialized nations by 2001.

The definition of "industrialized nations," though, is still the subject of disagreement between Frenkel and Meridor. Frenkel favors the IMF list of nations (which will include Israel from April), where the average rate is currently some 2.5%. Meridor, on the other hand, argues that the wider Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) list, with a rate just over 4%, should be adopted.

"The problem isn't which list we use, but rather that we do not include countries with hyperinflation when we set our targets," a central bank spokesman said yesterday.

The OECD list includes Turkey and Mexico which have inflation rates of close to 80% and 23% respectively.

Koor sells 25% of Phoenicia Glass

By GALIT LIPKIS BECK

The Canadian-based Consumer Packaging Inc. (CPI), a leading producer of glass containers, has signed a partnership agreement to purchase 25.1 percent of Phoenicia Glass Works, a fully owned subsidiary of Koor Industries, for \$435 million, the company informed the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange yesterday.

The agreement marks CPI's first investment in the Middle East. The firm intends to expand activities into other countries in the region in its strategy to become a multinational corporation.

CPI is the market share leader and only glass container producer in Canada. The company, in partnership with Owens-Illinois Glass Container, recently signed an agreement to buy Anchor, one of the largest producers of glass bottles and jars in the US. Completion of the transaction will turn CPI into the third largest glass firm in the world with an annual sales turnover of about \$1.2b.

The pact was signed in Canada yesterday in the presence of Phoenicia chairman Savion Avivi

and John Ghaznavi, chairman of CPI, about 18 months after the firms began negotiations.

Ghaznavi signed the accord one day after receiving a letter of support from ex-prime minister Shimon Peres, said a source close to CPI.

According to the agreement, CPI will provide Phoenicia with know-how and technology intended to increase the company's range of products and help it penetrate new markets. There will be no change in management but two CPI representatives will join Phoenicia's board of six directors. The firms have also set up a senior executive committee made up of Avivi and Ghaznavi, which will be responsible for handling all micro and macro issues.

The Yerevan-based Phoenicia is the country's veteran glass maker. The firm, which employs 220 workers, produces about one million glass containers a day and has an annual sales turnover of about \$30m.

CPI operates seven Canadian manufacturing facilities, and also has investments in the US, Russia, China and Italy. Sales for the 12-month period ending September 30, 1996 were \$459m.

PM's Office, Orbit to discuss investment

By JENNIFER FRIEDLIN

Prime Minister's Office deputy director-general Moshe Leon will meet Orbit Semiconductor, Inc.'s CEO in the near future to encourage the company to invest here, a spokesperson from the office said.

Towards the end of last year, Orbit decided to cancel plans to build a \$280 million semiconductor factory in Ellat, after the investment center of the Ministry of Industry and Trade rejected the company's request for an investment aid grant. Orbit, of Sunnyvale, California, is a mid-sized manufacturer of semiconductors.

The ministry said it rejected Orbit's request after conducting

studies that showed the factory would not reap large enough financial rewards for the Israeli economy to warrant an investment aid package that would have totaled \$84m, or 30% of the investment.

"After conducting the study, we determined that the present value for the economy wasn't sufficient enough to make it worth investing the public's money in the factory," said David Baruch, director of the Ministry of Industry and Trade's investment center.

The Ministry of Industry and Trade rejects about 10% of the requests it receives for investment aid packages, Baruch said.

Leon's planned meeting with Gary Kennedy, Orbit's CEO, does not indicate that the government is

dissatisfied with the Ministry of Industry and Trade's evaluation, said Ofir Akonin, deputy spokesman in the prime minister's office.

Akonin said Leon decided to meet with Kennedy in an effort to encourage the company to reevaluate the structure of the investment and to help the company redesign its plans to make them more favorable to the Ministry of Industry and Trade's investment center.

At the end of last year, the government changed the Investment Encouragement Aid Law, reducing the maximum amount of money companies investing in Israel are entitled to receive to 20% of their investment.

Motorola local sales surpass \$1b.

By JENNIFER FRIEDLIN

Motorola (Israel), a subsidiary of the Illinois-based electronics giant, recorded local sales of more than \$1 billion for 1996, a 30% increase compared to 1995.

The company's overall sales in 1996 totaled \$27.97b.

The Tel Aviv-based subsidiary also reported a 27% increase in exports from \$233 million in 1995 to \$295.5m. last year.

Hanan Achsaf, president of Motorola (Israel), said Israel's demand for advanced electronics products has influenced the international marketplace.

"Motorola Israel recorded an identifiable gain in reaching international markets through its local developments and local marketing efforts," he said. "Competition in the local market, especially in the field of wireless communications, contributed considerably to growth in the overall market and caused a decrease in the profitability in the conventional [telecommunications] market."

Achsaf said the firm surpassed its forecast for 1996. Achsaf expected that the company would not reach the \$1b. sales mark until 1997.

Motorola (Israel), which employs 3,450 people, operates seven local subsidiaries, including Motorola Communications, Motorola Semiconductor and Beeper Communications.

The local subsidiaries have always been at the forefront in developing and distributing cutting-edge products for the company.

Hotel profits down 10%-15% in 1996

By HAIM SHAPIRO

The bad news is that last year was a boom year for tourism. The good news is that despite the slump in incoming tourism, the tourism industry is optimistic about the future.

According to figures the Hotel Association released yesterday, profitability dropped between 10 percent and 15% in 1996, compared to the previous year, a drop that has continued for the past three years, with an overall three-year decrease since 1993 of about 35%. Tourism from abroad dropped sharply during the course of the year, with up to 20% fewer tourists stays during the latter part of the year, and a yearly decrease of 6% compared to 1995.

Hotel Association director Avi Rosental said that last year hotels showed a \$1.2 billion turnover, with \$600 million of that coming from incoming tourism. He pointed to the sharp increase in the number of nights spent by Israelis in local hotels, which jumped by 12% in

comparison with the previous year. "I think that this is proof that Israeli hotels succeeded in competing with all the vacation packages being offered in the area, because of our competitive price offers, and our aggressive marketing, as well as the fact that this winter weather in Israel has been far better than anywhere in Europe," Rosental said.

He noted that despite the slump last year, which he attributed to a combination of geopolitical factors, about 20,000 hotel rooms were either in the planning or building stage, bringing the total up to about 50,000.

"Investors have to be optimistic and make long-term forecasts, since it takes four or five years from the planning stage to the opening of a hotel," he said.

The optimism, he said, was based on an expectation of quiet, as a result of the peace process, and expectations for waves of incoming tourists to mark Israel's 50th anniversary in 1998 and the Jubilee of Christianity in 2000.

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 - Overseas suppliers should make payment into Bezeq's account no. 12-901-97633/64, at the Jerusalem main branch of Bank Leumi LeIsrael. The cost of the tender documents is not returnable. The receipt, with details of your company, and authorized trader's number may be faxed to 972-2-5378113. Please phone afterwards (972-2-5395815,4) to obtain confirmation of receipt of the fax.
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Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	0.925	0.750	1.000		
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French franc	5.4181	5.5055			
Japanese yen (100)	0.5997	0.6094			
Dutch florin	2.7583	2.8008			
Swiss franc	1.8042	1.8333			
Swedish krona	2.3449	2.3828			
Norwegian krona	0.4648	0.4724			
Denmark krone	0.5079	0.5161			
Finnish mark	0.5319	0.5405			
Canadian dollar	0.6782	0.6904			
Australian dollar	2.4038	2.4427			
S. African rand	2.5111	2.5517			
Belgian franc (10)	0.6838	0.7048			
Austrian schilling (10)	0.8821	0.9089			
Italian lire (1000)	2.8780	2.9255			
Jordanian dinar	2.0824	2.1180			
Egyptian pound (EGP)	4.5000	4.6000			
Irish punt	0.8820	0.9000			
Spanish peseta (100)	3.5589	3.6004			
	5.3182	5.4000			
	2.4236	2.4827			

*These rates vary according to bank.
SOURCE: BANK LEUMI

Hap. J'lem fails to stay clear of Ulm

By ELI GRONER

The good news, is that a great pass from Adi Gordon to a cutting Motti Daniel with five seconds to play resulted in a game-winning basket for Hapoel Jerusalem. The bad news, is that in the round of 16 in the European Clubs tournament, last night's 99-97 (halftime 52-52) victory over Germany's Ulm amounts to no more than a two-point halftime advantage, with the second half to be played next week in Germany.

The aggregate winner will move on to the quarterfinal round. It was clear that Gordon was going to be the Jerusalemite chosen by coach Gadi Kedari to handle the ball at the end. In addition to being Jerusalem's best clutch player over the past few years, Gordon was also the best player last night, pouring in 30 points while running Jerusalem's offense. Gordon had also scored Jerusalem's previous two field goals, the last, giving the hosts a 96-92 lead with one minute to go.

However, after Billy Thompson (18 points, 10 rebounds, 3 assists) fouled out, the Germans outscored Jerusalem 5-1 setting up Daniel's game-winning layup.

The game should never have been this close. Jerusalem enjoyed several comfortable leads, including an 83-74 advantage with just under eight minutes remaining. But unnecessary fouls, often resulting in Ulm three-point plays, helped the Germans consistently close the gaps.

While the Germans were able to focus primarily on Gordon, who handled the ball on virtually every Jerusalem offense, Jerusalem didn't have the luxury of concentrating on just one player. Mark Knorr, Lou Roe, Mike Richmond and Wright utilized their one-on-one abilities to compensate for its 15 turnovers.

Knorr led the German squad with 26 points.

Jordan scores 39 as Bulls beat Bullets

CHICAGO (AP) — Michael Jordan scored 39 points, including eight in the final two minutes, and Dennis Rodman reached 10,000 career rebounds Tuesday night as the Chicago Bulls beat the Washington Bullets 108-107.

Scottie Pippen added 25 points and made three key 3-pointers in the final quarter for Chicago, which won its seventh straight and improved its NBA-best record to 32-4.

Chris Webber scored 33 points for the Bullets, including a basket with eight seconds left that sliced Chicago's lead to 106-104. Toni Kukoc was then left alone for a layup that sealed the win before Webber made a 3-pointer at the final buzzer.

Tuesday's results: Boston 116, Golden State 106; Atlanta 95, Minnesota 93; Houston 106, New York 96; Chicago 108, Washington 107; Phoenix 118, Denver 101; Portland 107, Detroit 86; LA Lakers 91, Vancouver 81; Sacramento 105, Indiana 98 (OT).

Henman to meet Chang, Graf plays on regardless

Stich undone by Medvedev in Melbourne marathon

MELBOURNE (Reuters) — Britain's Tim Henman blasted his way to a date with Michael Chang as Steffi Graf declared yesterday she would not let her father's tax evasion trial derail her bid for a fifth Australian Open title.

Men's 15th seed Michael Stich of Germany, the 1991 Wimbledon champion, was the biggest name ousted, following compatriot Boris Becker to the sidelines by losing to Ukrainian Andrei Medvedev in five sets.

Another loser was 12th seed Magnus Gustafsson of Sweden, beaten 3-6, 7-6(8/6), 6-4, 6-4 by German Karsten Braasch.

Rising star Henman, world-ranked 14th after winning the Sydney tournament last week, served and volleyed at the peak of his form to oust Frenchman Guillaume Raoux 6-3, 6-3, 6-4. He will meet Chang, a straight sets winner over American Richey Reneberg, in the third round.

Graf, the German top seed and world No. 1, survived a scare against Latvian doubles specialist Larissa Neiland to win her second-round match.

But she vowed to carry on through the tournament even though her father, Peter Graf, faces a possible jail sentence for tax evasion if he is found guilty in a verdict expected hours before the women's final.

"I knew already when I came here when the ending of the trial would be and I am playing until I am done with this tournament," Graf said after overcoming a 4-0 deficit in the first set to beat Neiland 7-5, 6-2.

Prosecutors have asked that Peter Graf serve six years and nine months in jail if convicted of tax evasion charges involving more than 19.2 million marks (US\$12.19 million) of his daughter's tennis earnings between 1989 and 1993.

Chang and Spain's Carlos Moya, who ousted defending champion Becker in five sets in the first round, led the charge for the baseline brigade.

Second seed Chang wore down Reneberg 6-3, 7-5, 6-1 and Moya held his nerve after a poor start to beat American Patrick McEnroe 3-6, 6-0, 6-3, 6-1.

"I do not feel I am quite there," Chang said.

Both Chang and Moya operated mainly from the back court to exploit their speed and consistent ground strokes to subdue their opponents.

Chang may have to review his



BATTILING BASELINER — Spain's Sergi Bruguera hits a forehand at Magnus Larsson of Sweden during his second round victory over the Swede at the Australian Open yesterday.

Eyal Ran ousted in second round

Israel's only entry in this year's Australian Open, Eyal Ran, lost his second round match yesterday to Dennis van Schepingen.

Ran, 152 in the ATP Tour rankings, offered little resistance to the 109th ranked Dutch player, losing 6-2, 6-2, 6-2.

A day earlier, Ran had suffered severe leg cramps and received medical attention during his match against Justin Gimelstob (150) from the United States. Ran eventually subdued Gimelstob 6-3, 7-6(7/4), 3-6, 6-4. For his first-round win, Ran will receive \$11,000 and a move of four places up in the world rankings.

Heather Chait

tactics in the third round, however, when he comes up against serve-and-volley specialist Henman, who managed 11 aces against Raoux.

Henman, who last year became the first Briton to make the quarter-finals at Wimbledon since 1973, is unseeded in Melbourne.

But after his Sydney success he is playing with great confidence and he said yesterday he planned to take the game to Chang in their meeting.

"I feel that if I can be aggressive, then maybe I can be the dictator," he said.

Some of the harder hitters have complained that conditions at Melbourne Park this year are more favorable to baseliners than in past championships.

Japan's Rika Hiraki caused the biggest upset of the day, ousting women's 10th seed Brenda Schultz-McCarthy of the Netherlands 0-6, 6-1, 6-4.

Hiraki, 25, said she could not concentrate during the first set because she was not used to playing in front of a crowd, but she came back forcefully as Schultz-McCarthy lost her composure.

Stich fought his heart out against Medvedev before becoming the second major German casualty of the week and appeared in control after taking the first set 6-4 under the evening floodlights in Melbourne.

Medvedev, world ranked 36, powered back into the game and took the next two sets for a final score of 4-6, 6-1, 6-2, 4-6, 9-7.

But the most exhausted winners of the day were Australians Jon Ireland and Wayne Arthurs, who entered the record book for their victory over Italians Cristian Brandi and Filippo Messori. Their third set score of 29-27 was the highest in the history of the championships.

Jury hears of Grobbelaar's 'heroics'

WINCHESTER, England (AP) — Bruce Grobbelaar's instinctive ability to save shots cost the former Liverpool goalkeeper a £120,000 payoff from a gambling syndicate, a jury was told yesterday.

The Zimbabwean "keeper made two stunning saves while he was diving the wrong way and his team was losing 3-1 to Manchester United. The game wound up a 3-3 tie and the gambling syndicate, betting on a Liverpool loss, weren't amused.

"I'm my own worst enemy," Grobbelaar is alleged to have told business associate Chris Vincent. "I don't like to lose. It's instinctive."

"In the second half I made two blinding saves when I was diving the wrong way. I just went ... and it hit my hand."

"Do you know how much money I lost? 125,000 in cash."

Prosecutor David Calvert Smith told the jury at a match-fixing trial at Winchester Crown Court the gambling syndicate stopped telephoning Grobbelaar after the Liverpool-Manchester United game went wrong.

"The syndicate could not have been happy about the 3-3 draw," he said. "There was a sudden

switch off in calls involving Grobbelaar. Yet, before there have been contact on a very regular basis. It's obvious that there was a cooling off as a result of the disappointment of the Manchester United game."

According to the prosecution, Grobbelaar also made a save with his leg playing for Liverpool in a game against Norwich which also had been rigged.

It's alleged he deliberately let in a goal against Coventry while he was playing for Southampton but his team still won the game 3-1.

"Two minutes into the game I pushed the ball into the back of the net," Grobbelaar allegedly told Vincent. "Then we came and steamrollered."

If Southampton had lost the game 1-0, "we would have cleaned up," he is alleged to have said.

Video tapes of the Grobbelaar saves against Manchester United and Norwich and the goal he conceded against Coventry all were shown to the jury.

The prosecution also says that Grobbelaar collected £40,000 pounds from former Wimbledon striker John Fashanu as a payoff for letting in three goals in Liverpool's game at Newcastle in Nov. 1994.

Newcastle flotation back on track

LONDON (Reuters) — English Premier League club Newcastle United were pressing ahead yesterday with plans for a stock market flotation following the appointment of Kenny Dalglish to succeed Kevin Keegan as manager.

Details of the timetable and structure of a listing expected to value the club at some £160 million are expected in the next few days, possibly as early as today.

The club would not comment on the timing of the announcement. Trading in the shares is likely to begin by April.

Former Liverpool and Blackburn Rovers manager Dalglish, appointed on Tuesday night, has plenty of support among the financial community in London.

Maccabi looking to get healthy vs. weak Charleroi

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

Even if he'd had Aladdin's lamp, Maccabi Tel Aviv coach Zvi Sherf couldn't have wished for a more fitting opponent than Belgium's weak Charleroi in tonight's Euroleague action (Channel 1, 8:45 p.m.).

It's no secret that Maccabi has been a bit gimpy lately, and the club still will be without reserve guard Brad Leaf tonight, who is nursing an injury. Buck Johnson — who was sorely missed in last week's away defeat to Alba Berlin — is back, but Randy White has been hobbled with an injury, although he is expected to play.

Facing another week with a patchwork lineup, Sherf has to be happy he is facing the weakest team in Group E, with Charleroi (0-11) still looking for its first Euroleague victory of the year. Still, the Belgian squad shouldn't be taken too lightly. They led Stefanel Milan at halftime last week in Belgium, but went on to lose by three points. They even have a height advantage over Maccabi inside, where center Adam Wojcik stands at 2.08, as does forward John Weatherspoon.

Ron Vercruyssen adds even more height at 2.12, meaning Maccabi giant Constantin Popa may definitely be needed. Wojcik is a talented player, with good offensive moves and a good shot, but reportedly is weak on his rebounding. He likes to hoist it up from outside but isn't particularly accurate (8-27). More importantly, he shoots just 57.1% from the foul line, so Maccabi can waste some fouls on him rather than let him get any easy baskets.

In fact, fouling a Charleroi player might not be a bad idea in general tonight — they only shoot 67.5% from the line as a team. Forward Ron Ellis is another player to watch out for, while Erik Claymans is the team's leading three-point shooter at 41.5% (17-41). Ellis shoots from beyond the arc as well, but isn't nearly as effective (16-46).

As a team, the Belgians are just 72-227 (31.7%) from long range, compared to Maccabi's 53-146 (36.3%), which isn't very good, either.

Charleroi will also be at slightly less than full strength, with reserve point guard David Desy back in Belgium with an injury, and point guard Jacques Stas coming off one. That's just another reason why Maccabi should be in for a laugh tonight at Yad Eliahu.

Maccabi's play recently has been anything but funny, however, especially that of guard Oded Katash. Tonight it's time for Sherf to finally put his full trust in the young guard, and stick with him even if he misfires early. The only way for a shooter to get out of a slump is to keep shooting, and Katash can't do that on the bench.

Amazingly, Katash's shooting percentage from two point range is just 23.8%, and he's only 17-45 (37.8%) from beyond the arc. However, the youngster must earn his minutes by improving his defense, or risk riding the pine for crucial parts of the game in favor of Boriko Radovic or Derrick Sharp. The latter was way off offensively last week, but was a spark on defense.

White showed signs of improvement last week, but also missed far too many chances under the hoop. Nadav Hanefeld needs to emerge from his shell and regain his position as a leader on this team in Euroleague play, both defensively and offensively.

Collectively, Maccabi must also improve its foul shooting, especially White and Johnson, who are shooting 66.7% and 67.5% from the charity stripe, not enough for Euroleague play. Neither is averaging more than four trips to the foul line per game, another sign Maccabi's offense is out of sync.

A victory tonight is vital, since both Olympiakos and Alba Berlin beat the Belgians twice in the previous round of Euroleague play, meaning they have achieved an advantage over Maccabi in the overall battle between them to qualify for the next stage of the tournament.

Yad Eliahu hasn't been kind to Maccabi this year, but if Sherf does have that lamp, maybe he can get two more wishes granted: a return to form for Katash, which leads to a decisive home victory for a change.

SPORTS

in brief

In-form Efes Pilsen first to last 16

ISTANBUL (Reuters) — Turkey's Efes Pilsen beat Split 74-64 last night to become the first team to qualify for the last 16 of this season's EuroLeague basketball.

The Turkish side now have a splendid 10-2 record after 12 games in the group stage, the best among the 24 clubs taking part. They lead their group and are sure to finish in the top four even if they lose their last four games. The top four from each group of six go into the last 16, starting in March.

In another game last night, in Group G, Panathinaikos of Greece notched up a home victory over Spain's Sevilla 90-71.

Yankee starter Wells breaks hand in fight

TAMPA, Florida (Reuters) — Doctors say New York Yankees left-hander David Wells, involved in a fight late Sunday in San Diego, may miss the start of spring training as he heals a broken bone in his pitching hand.

Wells, who signed a three-year, \$13 million deal with the Yankees in December, is expected to need four weeks to recover. Spring training for the reigning World Series champions begins in four weeks.

According to a police report, Wells and a male companion allegedly believed two other men had taken the keys to the pitcher's car. A fight ensued and one of the other men was punched in the face.

Life ban for rowdy Aberdeen fans

LONDON (Reuters) — Scottish premier league side Aberdeen said yesterday they were banning 12 fans for life after they jeered during a minute's silence in memory of former Glasgow Rangers and Scotland captain George Young.

Aberdeen said it had received numerous telephone calls identifying the spectators who disrupted the tribute to Young at Sunday's match against Rangers at Ibrox.

"They will be informed that they are no longer welcome at Pittodrie Stadium, with immediate effect," Aberdeen general manager David Johnston said.

Johnston said the club was still trying to identify some eight other culprits who joined in jeering and chanting during the silence. Young, capped 53 times for Scotland, died aged 74 on Friday.

Arsenal sign PSG teenager Anelka

LONDON (Reuters) — Arsenal have completed the signing of Paris Saint-Germain's 17-year-old striker Nicolas Anelka, the English premier league club confirmed yesterday.

"He's been signed and he'll be here next season," was all a club spokeswoman would say yesterday.

French daily newspaper *Le Parisien* reported yesterday Anelka had agreed a two-year contract with the London side with an option to stay for two more years.

It said Anelka, unhappy at PSG, had wanted to leave for some time and his decision had been helped by the fact Frenchman Arsene Wenger was Arsenal's manager.

English F.A. Cup results last night

Third round: Coventry v. Woking postponed - frost; (eventual winners away to Blackburn in fourth round); Leicester 2, Southend 0 (Leicester home to Norwich); Stoke 0, Stockport 2 (Stockport away to Birmingham);

Third round replays: Newcastle 2, Charlton 1 (After extra time, 90 mins: 1-1. Newcastle home to Nottingham Forest); Sunderland 0, Arsenal 2 (Arsenal home to Crystal Palace or Leeds); West Ham v. Wrexham postponed - fog (eventual winners away to Peterborough).

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WHAT'S ON

CRITIC'S CHOICE

OPERA

HELEN KAYE

Katerina is a woman more stoned against than stoning, even though she kills her husband and her father-in-law. That's what Dmitri Shostakovich thought when he wrote *Lady Macbeth from Mtsensk* or *Katerina Ismailova*. Jonathan Webb conducts the joint New Israeli/Kirov Opera production directed by Irina Molostova. Musically, it's really glorious. Visually it's flawed by a luminescent set which decapitates the singers for most of Act I if you're watching from the balcony. Susanna Foretsky (Sonička) waltzes off with the acting honors. Tonight and Saturday at the Tel Aviv Performing Arts Center at 8.



Valerie Herbert, Adam Lewis (center) and John Dicks star in "The Dresser."

CLASSICAL MUSIC

MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

Vladimir Altschuler leads the Ra'anana Symphony Orchestra in a special memorial concert to orchestra member Yuri Glimen Saturday (9) in Ra'anana. The program includes Hindemith's *Träumerei* for viola and strings, Paganini's viola concerto and other compositions. The soloist is Michael Kugel.

The Ashdod piano series continues Saturday (8:30) with duo pianists Ester Abramson and Nina Tyomkin playing selections by Schubert, Rachmaninoff, Tchaikovsky, Poulenc and Milhaud.

THEATER

HELEN KAYE

The Dresser, Ronald Harwood's long-running hit play, is about the mutual dependence between the aging actor/manager of a touring company and his dresser. It's the opening show for the Haifa English Theater season. It's directed by HET vet

eran Murray Rosovsky. The air-raid sirens and the sound of bombs falling are part of the show. At the Haifa Museum auditorium tonight and Saturday at 8:30. (English)

In Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night*, ladies fall hopelessly in love, men make fools of themselves, and the Fool has the last word. The Cameri Theater's contemporary look at the bard's most popular comedy is directed by Micki Gurevitch and opens on the mainstage on Saturday at 8:30 p.m. (Hebrew)

JAZZ

HELEN KAYE

Chicago jazzman Johnny Frigo started playing violin only in the '80s and in only three years got so good at it that Johnny Carson had him on the *Tonight* show. He began his professional life playing bass for Tommy Dorsey, and recorded with such as Herb Ellis and Lou Carter. His warm-up act will be singer Nissim Yemini in a salute to the late Nat King Cole. The is the fourth program in the Chicago Jazz series. Tonight at the Tel Aviv Museum at 9.

TV

CHANNEL 1

6:31 News in Arabic
6:45 Exercise Hour
7:00 Good Morning Israel

EDUCATIONAL TV

8:00 The Cairo
8:30 Family Ties
9:00 Artistic
9:25 Reading
9:45 Programs for the very young
10:15 Astronomy
10:30 Literature
11:00 Mathematics
11:10 French
11:30 Biology
12:30 Art
13:50 In the Heat of the Night
14:00 Surprise Train
14:20 Kitty Cat and Tommy
14:35 Babar the Elephant
15:00 Autot

CHANNEL 1

15:30 Tinytown Tales
15:50 Body
16:00 News
16:30 CNN News
20:00 Beach Patrol
21:30 Land's End
22:30 One West
23:00 News
23:30 The 700 Club
00:00 TV Shop
2:00 Quantum Shopping
3:00 TV Shop

CHANNEL 1

15:30 News in Arabic
15:50 News
16:00 News
16:30 News
16:55 Family Challenge
17:00 Family Matters
18:05 Saved by the Bell
18:30 Larry King
19:30 World News
20:00 CNN News
20:30 Beach Patrol
21:30 Land's End
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MOVIE

CHANNEL 4

11:30 The People Next Door (1996) (R)
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3:00 The Center of Things (1995) (R)

CHANNEL 4

11:30 The People Next Door (1996) (R)
12:00 Billy Budd (1962) (R)
12:30 Face the Music (1992) (R)
13:00 News in the Cinema
13:30 La Crie (French, 1992) (R)
14:00 Me and the Kid (1993) - comedy about two inept robbers who kidnap a spoiled little rich kid for ransom. They soon regret it. With Danny Aiello (82 mins.)
14:30 Last of the Dogmen (1995) (R)
15:00 The Tonight Show with Jay Leno (1995) - off-beat comedy by Lawrence Kasdan about a woman who decides to murder her philandering husband with the aid of her mother, an admirer and two stolen hit men. With Tracey Ullman, Kevin Kline, River Phoenix, William Hurt and Keanu Reeves (93 mins.)
15:30 Jennifer 8 (1992) (R)
16:00 Of Unknown Origin (1993) - comic horror. A giant vicious rat disturbs a suburban family (R)
16:30 La Gitan (French, 1975) (R)
17:00 News in the Cinema
17:30 The Center of Things (1995) (R)
18:00 The Center of Things (1995) (R)
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NEWS

in brief

Palestinian man shot during chase

A 30-year-old Sur Baher man was shot dead yesterday morning by police during a chase after suspected car thieves. The police chased the men from Armon Hanatziv to Sur Baher, where one began throwing rocks at them. The police ordered him to stop, but when he picked up more rocks, one of them shot him. He later died on the way to the hospital. The other suspect escaped. *Itm*

Arab local council heads end strike

After holding a five-week sit-in opposite the Prime Minister's Office, Arab local authority heads finally reached an agreement yesterday with Interior Minister Eli Shimon on equalizing their budgets with Jewish localities and canceling their accumulated debts. According to the agreement, the Arab localities will receive an additional NIS 160 million in funds over the next three years and debts will be covered according to the criteria set by the Efrati Committee. *Itm*

Remand extended for suspected kid killer

The remand of Lena Tzoni, 31, who is suspected of killing her newborn daughter, was extended for 10 days yesterday by Hadera Magistrate's Court. She is to now undergo psychiatric examination. Tzoni is suspected of beating the infant and leaving her out on the street to die on Monday night. *Itm*

Jurists gather to bid Justice Tal goodbye

Fourteen Supreme Court justices gathered in the court's main courtroom yesterday for a group farewell picture with Justice Tsvi Tal, who was retiring. The gathering also was attended by leading jurists, friends and relatives.

Tal is stepping down at age 70, after more than three years on the Supreme Court bench, and 15 years in the Jerusalem District Court. Tal, who is observant, has not yet been replaced, and there currently is no observant Supreme Court justice. *Itm*

3 hospitals on emergency schedules today

Wolfson Hospital in Holon, Assaf Harofeh Hospital in Tzrifin and Barzilai Hospital in Ashdod will be on an emergency schedule for 24 hours starting at 7 a.m. today. Yesterday, services at the three hospitals and at Sheba in Tel Hashomer, Rambam in Haifa and Hillel Yofe in Hadera were seriously disrupted.

Some 9,000 administrative and maintenance workers at the government hospitals are protesting "broken promises" by the Finance Ministry to grant duty allowances to employees whose names were agreed upon in a special interministerial committee. *Judy Siegel*

Wiretapping affair state's witness testifies

State's witness Ya'acov Tsur gave his first testimony yesterday in the media wiretapping case, beginning in the trial of private investigator Ze'ev Laufer in Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court. Tsur will also testify against Ma'ariv publisher Ofer Nimrod and many others in separate trials. *Raine Marcus*

Shamir warns Ch. 1 about broadcasting Bus 300 drama

By NICHAL YUDELMAN

Former prime minister Yitzhak Shamir warned Channel 1 before the broadcast of the first part of the *Bus 300* series last night that he might take legal action if the drama doesn't present his part in the affair in a balanced way.

In a letter sent to Channel 1 via attorney Eitan Halberman, Shamir said he learned from various media publications that the drama series might cause him injustice. He warned that if this happened, he reserves the right to take action. The series dramatizes the *Bus 300* affair, in which the General Security Service beat to death two terrorists who were taken captive after they hijacked a bus on April 12, 1984.

GSS head Avraham Shalom and other GSS seniors were involved in a cover-up of the incident, which was exposed by the Zorea

State Inquiry Commission. Shamir insists on Shamir's full involvement in the affair.

But Shamir, who was interviewed by Dan Margalit on Channel 1's *Popolitika* on Monday, said Shamir had lied to him about the affair and that he knew nothing of the cover-up or of the GSS seniors lies to the Zorea Commission.

Television director-general Yair Stern said last night he believes "Shamir's fears are exaggerated, since the series does not present him in the way he suspects. The one who comes out bad from the story is Shalom, who tried to build himself a defense line based on lies and at the end paid the price for it."

Stern noted that the series is a drama. "But altogether the series is quite close to reality and presents the picture more or less as things happened."

Poland discussing restitution for seized Jewish property



Polish Prime Minister Włodzimierz Cimoszewicz visits the Warsaw section in the Valley of Communities at Yad Vashem yesterday. (Itan Flatau)

Swiss apology for 'blackmail' remark opens way for renewed talks

By RATSHEVA TSUR

"The way has been reopened to negotiations with the Swiss banks," Jewish Agency Chairman Avraham Burg said yesterday after learning that former Swiss president Jean-Pascal Delamuraz had publicly apologized for his remarks about the Jews.

"I am very sorry that I offended your feelings as well as those of many other people concerned, particularly those of the Jewish community at large," said Delamuraz in a letter to WJC President Edgar Bronfman.

Burg said he was thankful that the former president (who is currently economics minister) had found fit to retract his remarks about requests for compensation being "blackmail."

"For a prolonged period, we have been partners to one of the most just struggles that humanity has known in the second half of the 20th century," Burg said. "It has again been proven that standing firm when it comes to elevated moral principles, leads to victory."

Now that "the table has been cleared," he

said, it is time to resume contacts with the Swiss authorities and banks on the issue of the dormant accounts that have not been returned to their rightful owners.

In a related move, Burg also wrote to the president of the Union Bank of Switzerland.

"There have been reports in the Israeli media of the existence of secret disks at UBS which contain details of Jewish owners of bank accounts worth tens of millions of dollars," Burg wrote. "It must be clear to you, sir, that if these reports are indeed founded, this will have significance of the first order and severe moral implications on this bank's activities and those of the Swiss banking system in general. I am convinced that you, sir, share my view that it does not behoove a banking system to put its hands on monies which were attained unfairly, illegally and through theft from those murdered."

Recalling that another former Swiss president, Caspar Villiger, and the Swiss Banking Union had come out with a statement that "not one Franc" would remain in the wrong

hands, Burg called on the UBS head to open up all his books immediately to public scrutiny.

Liav Collins adds: An information center to collect material to be used in the investigation of the Holocaust-era funds in Swiss banks was opened in the Knesset yesterday. The center is also collecting material regarding assets missing since World War II in other European banks.

"The criminal investigation against the Swiss banking union (UBS) for destroying documents will speed up the discovery of the truth of our people," said MK Avraham Herschson (Likud) chairman of the Knesset subcommittee for restoring Jewish property. "The Germans murdered, the Swiss inherited and the world kept silent."

He praised Polish Prime Minister Włodzimierz Cimoszewicz for stating his willingness to return Jewish property found in his country to Jewish communities.

Knesset Speaker Dan Tichon welcomed the apology by Delamuraz.

By RATSHEVA TSUR

Poland's parliament, the Sejm, will wind up discussions in two committees next week on a bill for restitution for Jewish properties seized during the Holocaust.

"The bill will refer to communal Jewish properties throughout Poland," Polish Prime Minister Włodzimierz Cimoszewicz told *The Jerusalem Post* last night. "There has been a misunderstanding until now. The idea is to compensate for all Jewish properties and not merely for those in the nine communities where there are Jews still living today in Poland," he said.

There were Jewish synagogues, schools, hospitals and other public buildings scattered throughout Poland at the outbreak of World War II.

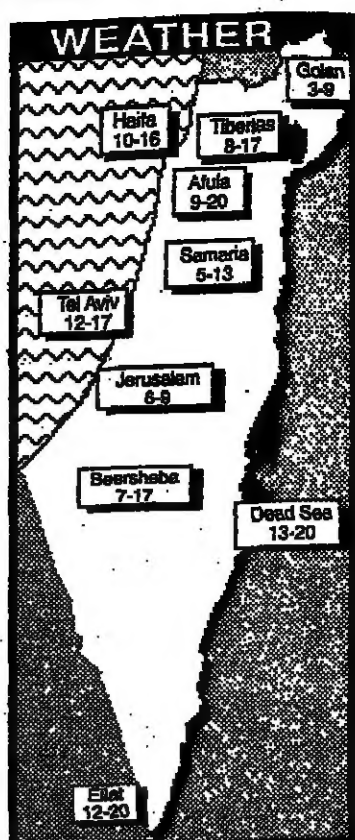
Cimoszewicz said that representatives of world Jewry would have a say as to how the compensation would be distributed since they will participate in a foundation to be set up. "Jewish organizations, including the World Jewish Restitution Organization, will be able to join in the foundation's discussions and decisions," he said.

During a visit to Yad Vashem earlier in the day, the Polish premier pointed out that his country had been the first in the world to condemn the moral and legal injustice of the transfer to Swiss banks of Polish Jewish assets. "We will do everything possible to have these returned to their owners or their heirs," he said.

But Cimoszewicz was less upbeat regarding compensation for private properties in Poland.

"The subject has been debated in the parliament for six or seven years now," he said. "Until there is complete privatization in Poland, I don't think anything will move."

President Ezer Weizman yesterday morning hosted Cimoszewicz at Beit Hanassi. The Polish guest told the president that his country was expanding economically at a greater rate than other countries in eastern Europe and that he hoped to see stronger economic ties with Israel.



Forecast: Scattered showers in most parts of the country accompanied by occasional thunderstorms. Slight fall in temperatures. Snow will fall on the Hermon.

AROUND THE WORLD			
	LOW	HIGH	
Amsterdam	-03	27	05 clear
Athens	08	43	05 partly cloudy
Berlin	08	40	13 partly cloudy
Bombay	-05	18	00 partly cloudy
Buenos Aires	02	27	00 clear
Cairo	03	27	00 clear
Hong Kong	17	80	19 clear
London	08	40	05 partly cloudy
Los Angeles	01	34	08 clear
Madison City	08	40	17 partly cloudy
Moscow	08	40	17 partly cloudy
Munich	-01	20	02 clear
New York	09	20	09 partly cloudy
Paris	08	37	05 clear
San Francisco	08	37	05 clear
Seattle	08	37	05 clear
Tel Aviv	12	24	21 clear
Tokyo	09	41	18 clear
Warsaw	01	34	03 partly cloudy
Washington	-08	23	02 clear
Zurich	08	37	05 clear

Winning cards

In yesterday's daily Chance drawing, the winning cards were the seven of spades, the queen of hearts, the queen of diamonds and the jack of clubs.

Wintery weather brightens Hermon staffers' faces

By DAVID RUDGE

Smiles replaced anxious frowns on the faces of staff at the Mt. Hermon ski center yesterday with the first real snowfall of the winter. The smiles grew as the snow continued to fall and stick on the ground, covering the northern peak in a white layer. "We'll be able to open soon and the [Hermon is in action] jingle will be heard again," said a member of the staff.

The sunshine that has kept the beaches packed for the past two months has proved a bane for the ski center, as well as the tourism trade generally in the North.

"It's been like summer up here and as a result we haven't had any visitors whatsoever," said Eli Sagron, manager of the Mt. Hermon ski center.

The company which runs the site is owned by the 40 families who compose the entire population of Moshav Neve Ativ, on the slope of Mt. Hermon. The hotels and guest houses on the moshav have also been empty.

The company has invested \$3.5 million in improving facilities at the ski site in the past few years, especially on new chairlifts and "T-bars" for skiers on the slopes. But instead of the usual vista of skiers racing over the snow, the visit yesterday was one of bare, brown rocks and a few ice patches.

Yeltsin must rest to stop pneumonia deteriorating

By PHILIPPA FLETCHER

MOSCOW (Reuters) - Russian President Boris Yeltsin is recovering from a serious bout of pneumonia but must stay in the hospital for the rest of the week because of the risk of complications, the chief Kremlin doctor said yesterday.

"I should say that this is a fairly serious illness, which of course brings with it a whole range of possible complications," said Sergei Mironov, who told reporters last Friday that Yeltsin would leave the hospital early this week.

He said at a news conference that Yeltsin's condition had "stabilized considerably" but that the 65-year-old president, who had initially insisted on only three days in the hospital, had been persuaded he needed more time there.

Yeltsin was working for short periods, but Mironov said he should take it easy.

"Of course we try to limit his workload because the illness he now has is quite treacherous," he said.

The news sent Russian debt prices to their lowest for a

month. Traders said the market would remain volatile until more was known about Yeltsin's illness, which comes on top of heart problems which kept him from the Kremlin for six months.

Mironov said Yeltsin's pneumonia stemmed from a heavy cold caught after a visit to the banya, the traditional steam bath which Yeltsin loves.

As he gave his latest update, opposition politicians were stepping up efforts to oust Yeltsin on health grounds.

The communists, still his main sparring partners five years after the Soviet Union broke up, said Yeltsin was unable to exercise power and the country was in deep crisis.

Communist deputy Viktor Ilyukhin, who heads the Duma's security committee, said he would press for a parliamentary vote tomorrow to force Yeltsin out for health reasons, even though legal experts said such a vote would have no legal force.

"We deputies cannot ignore the public's worry," Gennady Seleznyov, the communist chairman of the opposition-dom-

inated lower house of parliament, told the chamber.

Communist leader Gennady Zyuganov said his party, the biggest in the lower house, would decide today whether to support moves to force Yeltsin from office.

The president last year worked four months - only during the election campaign - and on the whole he didn't focus on government affairs but on promises, Zyuganov, who lost to Yeltsin in last July's presidential election, told reporters. "For any citizen of the country it raises the question: 'Why isn't there any leadership in the country?'"

The Russian constitution is vague on removing an ailing head of state, saying only that the president "ceases his functions" if his health is too weak for him to remain in office.

It does not specify who decides on a move which has such far-reaching implications and Yeltsin's chief of staff dismissed the efforts to remove him as a "political farce."

Yeltsin, who turns 66 on February 1, has been in Moscow's elite Central Clinical Hospital since January 8.

(Reuters)

Peruvian terrorists rule out 'executing' hostages

LIMA (Reuters) - Marxist terrorists in Lima pledged yesterday they would not "execute" any of their 74 hostages but warned that the deadlock in negotiations was pushing the crisis towards a violent end.

"It is not in our minds to carry

out executions, not to give any ultimatums," a spokesman for the terrorists, who identified himself as Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement (MRTA) leader Nestor Cerna Cartolini, said in a radio conversation with foreign news media monitored by Reuters.

"We have never spoken of executions," he added.

But Cerna also said that without tangible progress in negotiations, the crisis was "being pushed towards a military end" where the government would take responsibility for any injury to hostages in a

possible storming of the residence.

The government proposes a peaceful solution but at the same time says it does not have anything to negotiate with us," Cerna added.

In a step towards possible negotiations, Cerna said the group has accepted in principle the idea of a

"guarantor" commission proposed by the government to oversee talks.

"In what the government is proposing, they are talking about holding (negotiations) in a suitable atmosphere. We will try to do this as far as the circumstances permit," Cerna said.

WORLD

in brief

Parliamentary commission clears Ciller

ANKARA (AP) - A parliamentary committee yesterday dropped a case against former premier Tansu Ciller, finding no evidence of wrongdoing in her accumulation of millions of dollars in wealth. A contrary vote would have stripped her of her cabinet positions and opened the way for prosecution. After six months of investigation, the panel voted 8-7 in favor of Ciller, now deputy premier and foreign minister. Ciller was accused of wrongfully accumulating \$50 million.

'Universe will end in 10 trillion years'

TORONTO (Reuters) - The end of the universe as humans know it will occur in about 10 trillion years, but certain physical processes will continue as far into the future as astronomers can imagine, scientists reported yesterday.

For all practical purposes, what we think of as the universe will end when all the big stars like our Sun stop shining, said astrophysicist Fred Adams of the University of Michigan. "At that time, a human eye on Earth would observe the universe to be dark and black."

But there would be no human eyes to observe it, Adams said and his colleague Greg Laughlin said at a news conference, because by that point Earth's oceans would have boiled away in the Sun's dying flameout, reducing the planet to an uninhabitable cinder.

international connections
AT&T
Abi TA over
heroi 87-70

IDF
Knesset
Hebron

Post
treatments

North American
Weekly Prices
Friday Edition
\$3.00
\$5.00
\$4.00

The Resistance
Center for
Social Change
10-218100

BOOKS
\$2.00
\$3.00
\$4.00
\$5.00
\$6.00
\$7.00
\$8.00
\$9.00
\$10.00

السلامة